

## Joke Jar

(Target Audience: Ages 9–12)

On days when you are feeling a little blue, just pick out a joke from the joke jar and laugh those blues away!

### Materials:

- Empty food jars (mayonnaise or pickle jars would probably work well)
- Newspaper comic strips and/or funny clipart images, and/or paper for children to draw their own comics or funny pictures.
- Funny stickers (optional)
- An adhesive product like Mod Podge<sup>®</sup> that can be brushed on, will dry clear, and give a nice finish. White glue that is watered down a bit can also be used.
- Glue or paint brushes
- Paper strips for writing jokes on
- Pens or thin markers
- An assortment of joke books

You can begin the program by telling a few jokes and then asking kids to share their favourite jokes. If you have a large group, you can then divide them into smaller groups. Each child will get some paper strips to write jokes on. Each group can look at joke books to get inspired or they can do a joke exchange within their group. Kids can record their favourite jokes onto the paper strips and then fold up the paper strips, and then put the jokes in a jar.

The jars will then get decorated with glued on comic strips, clipart images, or original drawings. The pictures can be glued on, covering the glass jar. Stickers can also be used as well if desired.

It would be best if the kids exchanged jars so that the jokes they pull out and read will be a surprise to them. Tell the kids before you start the activity that they will be making the jar for someone else in the room. The finished jars can be collected and given a bit of time to dry (you can read a story or tell some jokes in the meantime). Mod Podge<sup>®</sup> or other similar products are fairly fast drying. When the kids leave, they are given a jar to take home (different than the one they made).

The joke jar can be used in many of the programs throughout this manual.