Don’t worry, you don’t have to be funny: Five things I use from Improv in an academic library
What is improv?
Teaching LIS students reference skills + building classroom community (Nelson, S. B., & Vardell, E., 2023)

Enfusing play into library instruction (Cohn, S. B., & Levitan, G., 2022)

Training healthcare providers in empathy, respect for multiple viewpoints and dealing with ambiguity (Mehta, A., Fu, B., Chou, E., Mitchell, S., & Fessell, D., 2021)
Me & improv

No background in theater*
Gifted a level 1 course in 2019
Enrolled in my 7th course
Love that there’s no homework!

"Cow" by mindfrieze is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0
Five things I use from Improv in an academic library
Where might these be useful in instruction, reference or beyond?
1. Yes, and…

“Wow, mom it’s really cold on Venus”
2. Accept the base reality

“Wow, mom it’s really cold on Venus”

“It’s great honey, we can go skiing on another planet like you always wanted to”
3. Active listening

“Wow, mom it’s really cold on Venus”

“It’s great honey, we can go skiing on another planet like you always wanted to”

“SDO's Ultra-high Definition View of 2012 Venus Transit - 304 Angstrom” by NASA Goddard Photo and Video is licensed under CC BY 2.0.
4. There are no mistakes

“Wow, mom it’s really cold on Venus”

“It’s great honey, we can go skiing on another planet like you always wanted to”
5. Be present

“Wow, mom it’s really cold on Venus”

“It’s great honey, we can go skiing on another planet like you always wanted to”

“SDO's Ultra-high Definition View of 2012 Venus Transit - 304 Angstrom” by NASA Goddard Photo and Video is licensed under CC BY 2.0.
Let’s look at the shared doc and see what other ideas there are.

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Questions
Further reading


Mockingbird Improv Theater: https://www.mockingbirdimprov.org/