

What did Sarah see Ishmael doing [Gen 21.9]? Some options

THE MASORETIC (HEBREW) VERSION:

“But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, metsacheq”

1. “Playing”: ordinary playful activity, i.e., acting like an ordinary member of the family
2. “Mocking”: making fun of Sarah, i.e., laughing “at” her
3. “Playing {with himself}”: i.e., masturbating, reminding Sarah of his fertility

THE SEPTUAGINT (GREEK) VERSION:

But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac.

4. “Playing with”: as #1 above, but with Isaac
5. “Mocking”: at Isaac, the little brother
6. “Abusing”: sexually abusing little Isaac