

## CAPS FOR SALE by Esphyr Slobodkina

- **Things to get ready:**

1. Make a paper hat out of newspaper for each of the children. (see directions in the art activity section) You will need newspaper. Also get crayons, paints, stickers, scrapes of material, etc. to decorate the hat.
2. Plan a “monkey snack” such as bananas or banana bread.

- **Getting the children ready to listen:**

Tell the children that your story for today has monkeys in it. Tell them the monkeys in the story get into a bit of trouble. Introduce the finger play/poem by saying you will get ready by saying a poem about some monkeys that get into a bit of trouble. “You copy what I do and join in when you can. Let’s see what happens.”

As an alternative to *Five Little Monkeys Swinging in the Tree*. You could do *Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Be*. (See *Goodnight Gorilla*)

### **Five Little Monkeys Swinging In the Tree**

Five little monkeys swinging in the tree. (*Hold up five fingers.*)

Teasing Mr. Alligator, (*Swing fingers back and forth.*)

“Can’t catch me!”

“Can’t catch me!”

Along came Mr. Alligator (*Slow, whisper voice. Put both hands together to form the alligator.*)

As quietly as can be

SNAP! *Clap hands loudly.*)

### **Four little monkeys swinging...**

Three little monkeys swinging...

Two little monkeys swinging...

One little monkey swinging

- **Read-Aloud Guide**

BEFORE you read the book:

1. Excuse yourself and get several hats to balance on your head. Walk back to the story corner saying... “Caps! Caps for sale! Fifty cents a cap! I am a peddler that sells something. Instead of carrying my wares on my back, I carry them on my head. Can you guess what I sell? (HATS!) That’s right, I sell hats, or as I call them, caps. I have another friend who also sells caps. One day he got into some trouble...
2. Show the cover of the book and read the title, author, and illustrator. “This is my friend. He’s the one that also sells caps. What is happening here? What is he doing? Who else is in the picture? What kind of trouble do you think he is in? Let’s read to find out what happened to my friend.”

DURING reading:

1. As you read the part about the caps on the first page, go slowly and point to the illustration as you move through the list of caps.
2. When you come to the page, “When he woke up he was refreshed and rested,” ask the children if they notice anything different about the peddler. (He only has on the checked cap.)  
Ask them if they can guess what has happened.
3. After you read the page where the peddler stamped his feet, ask the children what the monkeys are doing that is making the peddler so mad. (copying or imitating him)

AFTER reading:

1. Ask the children, "What was your favorite part? Why?"
2. Ask the children how many red caps the peddler had? How many blue? How many brown? How many gray? (4 of each) How many checked caps? (1). Record on paper or a board. Can anyone figure out how many in all?
3. Play a game of "Monkey See, Monkey Do."  
*(directions are on next page)*

### **Extension Activities**

- **Game**

***"Monkey See, Monkey Do  
I can do it, so can you."***

Students stand in a circle. Choose a cooperative child to be the lead monkey. Ask him/her to think of an action and do it. Have all of the other children perform the same action. Without stopping the action, call out, "Next!" Then have the child to the left of the leader change to another action. (Children should move directly from one action to the next, without any downtime.) Continue in this way until you reach the original lead monkey. By then, your little monkeys will be tuckered out and ready for your art activity or a "monkey" snack.

- **Art Activity**

Give each child a paper hat and let them decorate it. They could color it, use stickers, glue on pieces of paper, etc. to decorate the hat. Be creative. For each student, a piece of paper. A full-size newspaper would create hats of an average size.



1. Fold the paper from top to bottom, bringing together the two opposite ends.



2. Crease the folded end.



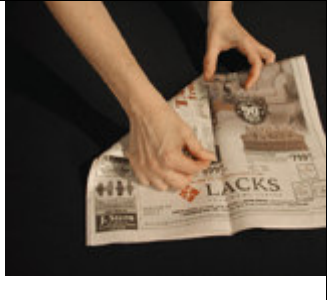
3. Fold the paper from side to side, bringing together the two opposite ends.



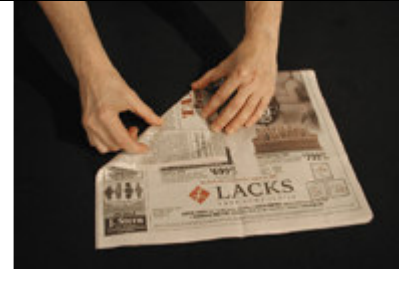
4. Crease the folded end.



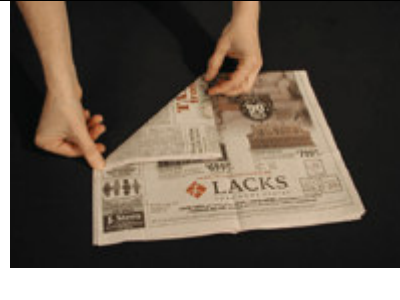
5. Unfold the paper once, noting the middle crease.



6. Fold the top left tip so that it touches the middle crease



7. Crease the diagonal end.



8. This is what you should have now



9. Fold the other tip so that it touches the middle crease, and crease the diagonal end.



10. Fold one bottom flap upward.



11. Crease this folded end



12. Flip the paper over.



13. Fold the other bottom flap, and crease the folded end.



14. Tuck in the edges of the flaps so that they don't stick out. You may want to tape them.



15. Decorate your hat.



16. Wear it! Talk about wearing hats.

<http://www.laits.utexas.edu/hebrew/personal/toolbox/acm/hat/hat.html>

- **Related Books**

**The Hatseller & The Monkeys**

by Baba Wagué Diakité

**Ten Cats Have Hats**

by Jean Marzollo