



Caps for Sale!

Children explore math and color concepts through storytelling, creative arts, and imaginary play.

START

- The goal of this activity is for children to explore math concepts as they participate in an interactive story time featuring Caps for Sale.
- Set up the table with the paper strips and crayons.
- Create a cozy read-aloud area.
- Arrange the monkey puppets or stuffed animals on the table.
- Introduce the activity by asking Who would like to hear a story about some naughty monkeys and a man with a lot of hats? And who would like to make a hat to wear with the story?

NEXT STEPS

- Ask the children to gather around the read-aloud area for story time.
- For younger children, you can use the monkey puppet to invite them, by saying things such as Hoo, oo, oo (monkey noises), who would like to come and hear a story about me? Come and sit over here!
- Let the children know that you are going to read through the story one time for them to get the idea of it and then they'll create their own hats and listen to the story again, this time with lots of participation.
- After the first read through, have the children go to the table and pick out a paper strip for their hat. If they want to create self-designed or checked hats, they can use the white paper. The children who pick solid colors can decorate their hats as well. (Make sure there are a few premade hats of each of the colors in case the children don't make them.) While they are working, you can ask color and math-related questions, such as What color is this? What color are you adding to it? How many blue hats do we have? What color will you make your checks?
- When the children are finished decorating their hats, you can measure them around their heads and staple them to the right size.
- Have the children wear their hats while you read the story a second time. Throughout the reading, encourage the children to participate by having them say the colors and count the hats along with you. They can also touch their heads to feel their hats whenever the man checks his own. At the end of the story, when the monkeys throw their hats off, have the children do that as well!

MATERIALS

- * An assortment of 2 x 20" paper strips: white, gray, brown, red, and blue paper
- * Crayons
- * Stapler
- * *Caps for Sale* by Esphyr Slobodkina
- * 1–2 monkey puppets or stuffed animals

Learning Guideline:

Math: Listen to and say the names of numbers in meaningful contexts.

Tip Sheets:

Think, Imagine

(continued on side 2)



(continued from side 1)

FINISH UP

- After the second reading, ask if any of the children have a favorite picture in the book they want to look at again. You can also ask follow-up questions, such as What was your favorite part? How many hats did the man have? What colors were they?
- When the activity is done, you can have all of the children take off their hats and wave them goodbye to each other before they leave. You can also have the monkey say goodbye to the children.

EXPAND YOUR ACTIVITY

- On a whiteboard, you can record how many of each kind of hat the children made. Have each child describe her or his hat by color and any special design feature (checks, squiggly lines). If the child is having trouble with the description, everyone can pitch in with descriptive words to help. The totals could also be recorded on a simple graph to further illustrate to the children how number ideas can be represented.
- Create a rainbow hat story, with the hats representing the colors of the rainbow, as a more directed way of talking about color.

TAKE IT HOME

- Find a simple monkey picture to use as a cutout to create Popsicle-stick puppets. The children can cut them out and color them in and then use them to interact even more with the storytelling.
- Have the children re-create the story on their own as a play, using their own ideas for costumes, hats, and monkey puppets or stuffed animals. Then, with you as the audience, let them lead you through the story, including the counting and talking about colors.
- Invite a group of friends and their children over for an informal music/movement dance party. Try out the Hokey Pokey; Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes; or, for very young children, Put Your Finger in the Air or Open, Shut Them.

BOOKS

- *Elmer* by David McKee
- *Count on Math: Activities for Small Hands and Lively Minds* by Pam Schiller and Lynne Peterson
- *Curious George Learns to Count from 1 to 100* by H. A. Rey
- *Caps for Sale* by Esphyr Slobodkina

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Funded by:
Department of Early
Education and Care
Race to the Top –
Early Learning Challenge Grant

