

Ten Apples Up On Top!

by Dr. Seuss

A hysterical book that teaches children how to count forwards and backwards to 10, while following three friends competing to see how many apples they can pile up.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Which fruit do you think would be the easiest to balance on your head? Why?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder how long they can leave those apples on top of their heads?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end.

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Which animal tried balancing one apple on his head?
- Who joined the lion and had two apples on his head?
- When dog had four apples, what did he try and do?
- Who had five apples and was in the tree?
- How many apples did lion, dog and tiger have on their heads when they were skating?
- How many apples did they have when they were skating and drinking milk?
- Why did the bear chase them with the mop?
- What did lion, dog and tiger use to stop the birds and bear from taking their apples?
- What did lion, dog and tiger ride to get away?
- What did lion, dog and tiger run into?
- What happened to the apples?
- Describe what it looked like when the apples landed.
- Who all had apples on their heads?

Do

Obstacle Course

Before: Either inside the classroom or on the playground set up an obstacle course. You can use jump ropes, hula hoops, cones, slides, tunnels, a sandbox or anything else you have available.

You will need: fake apples, a package of real apples or applesauce.

After reading the story, give each child a fake apple to carry. Have the children go through the obstacle course several times (without the apple) to practice. Once everyone has practiced, have the children go through the course while holding the apple. Explain that if they drop their apple, they have to start over. If desired, allow the children to go through the course in reverse order.

Additional Activity: Eat apples or applesauce for a snack.