Curious George
by H.A. Rey

George, the curious little monkey, goes on an adventure in this classic story and seems to find trouble around every corner.

Before:
Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, This is a story about a little monkey whose curiosity is always getting him into trouble. What does it mean to be curious? 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 where these men are taking that monkey?

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. Point out “rare words” (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in everyday conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in Curious George

• Africa: one of the seven continents
• curious: eager to know about something
• sailor: somebody who works on a boat or ship
• rowed: propelled a boat across water by using oars
• promised: to assure somebody that something will certainly happen
• struggling: to make a great physical effort to achieve something
• overboard: over the side of a ship and into the water
• shore: the land that runs along the edge of the ocean, sea, or lake
• pipe: a device used for smoking tobacco
• fascinated: to hold somebody’s attention completely
• signal: transmitted information
• bunch: a number of things grouped together
• whisked: to move somewhere quickly
• gusts: a sudden burst of wind

After:
Discuss the story. Ask questions…

• Why do you think George came down from the tree to look at the yellow hat?
• Why did George think he could fly?
• What do you think the seagulls thought when they saw a monkey flying through the air?
• How many of you get to use the phone at home? Who do you call?
• Why did the fire department take George to jail? Do you think George is a naughty monkey?
• Do you think George had fun flying with the balloons? What do you think he was thinking when he was so high in the air?
• Do you think George will like living at the zoo? Why or why not?
Lunch and Learn

Invite a representative from your local fire station to lunch so the children can ask questions and learn all about being a fire fighter.