



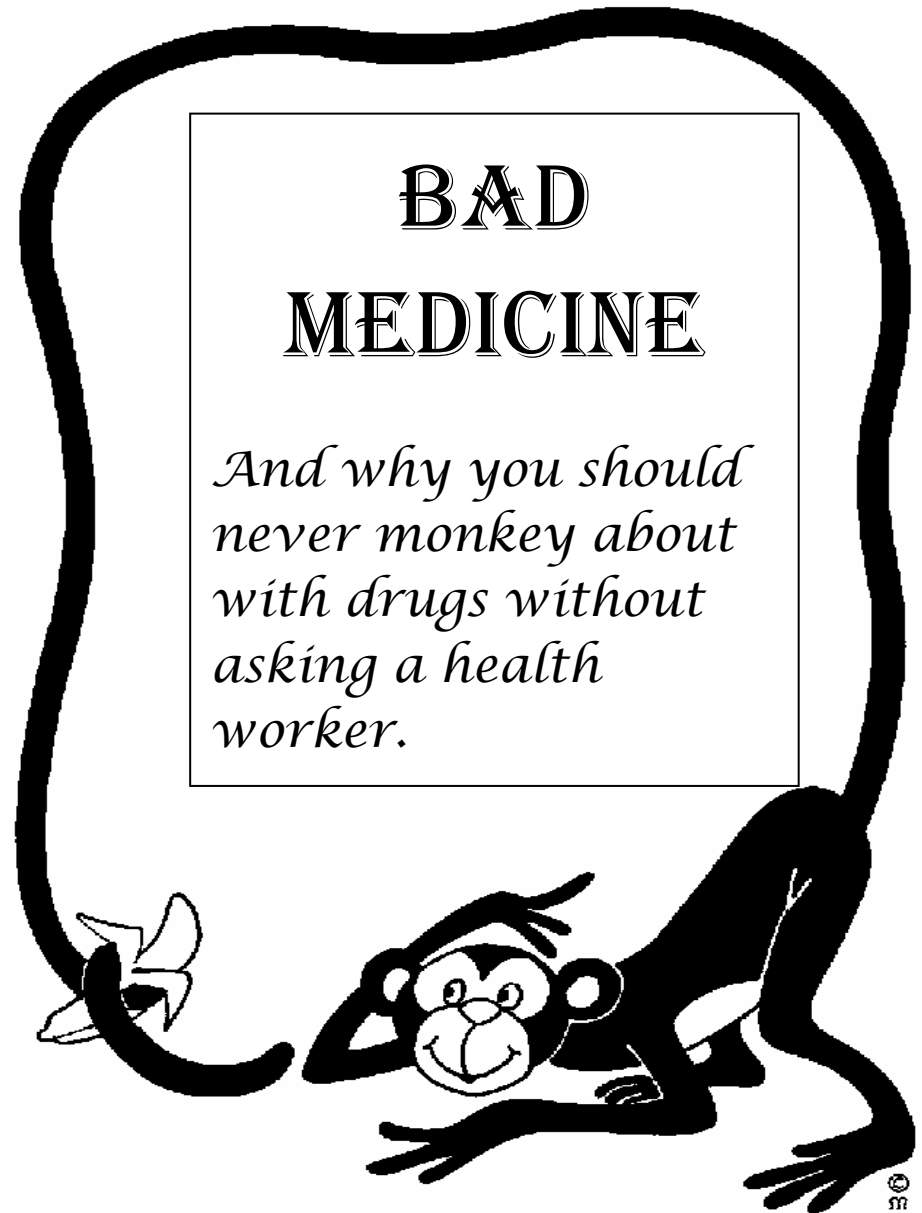
Other books in the series

Filthy the fly
Wally the worm
I had a flower
Sam and Dina
The Mango Minders
Dirty Water
Old Chicken Eyes
Basim and Bloog

*Adapted from Beatrice Potter by Dr. Shabnam Ahmad, Institute for Education and Development
Aga Khan University Karachi (Child-to-Child cooperating centre)*

BAD MEDICINE

*And why you should
never monkey about
with drugs without
asking a health
worker.*



BAD MEDICINE

This is a story of a little monkey called Manga who never listened to his teacher or his mother. He was also very greedy. Next to the tree where his house was there was a big fence and over the fence lived Mr. Karim the farmer. "Never go over there," his mother had told him. Mrs. Karim hates monkeys." But Manga never listened to advice. He was naughty and always looking for adventure.

He ran to Mr. Karim's house and jumped from a big tree into the garden. There he found the most wonderful fruit growing. Mr. Karim grew the best bananas in the whole region. Manga ate and ate. Finally, feeling rather sick, he went to lie under a shady lemon tree. After minutes, he heard the heavy tread of Mrs. Karim's foot. "Oh, no!" he quickly got up and started to run. Mrs Karim ran after him but she was fat and lazy and soon gave up. By this time Manga was hopelessly lost and feeling very sick because of all those bananas. He saw a door and slipped in. He was inside Mrs. Karim's kitchen but feeling sicker and sicker. "Perhaps I can find the red medicine here," he thought, "the kind the doctor gave me last time I was sick."

He went to a small room next to the kitchen. On the table were lying some bottles of medicine in a red basket. Manga saw some red medicine with a label on it, but his reading was so poor that he couldn't make out what the label said. "It must be the same," he thought. He grabbed the bottle.

"Now my pain will go away and I will be able to find my way home," thought Manga. He drank quite a lot of the medicine from the bottle, put it back, slipped out of the door and ran home before Mrs. Karim could come back.

Once inside his hole he flopped down on the sofa. He felt dizzy and itchy all over. His body was covered with red rashes. "What is that?" he said to himself. "What is happening to me? I feel so ill." He called his mother. She looked at him,

"O my where have you been?" she cried. "What happened to you?" He told her. At first she was angry but then began to be really worried.

What are you telling me?" she wailed, "I know Mrs Karim throws her old medicine bottles in the red basket in her house. What you drank was probably not the same as the doctor gave you, and it was probably out of date. Mrs Karim also buys most of her medicine in the market and who knows what stuff they could have sold her. You have drunk bad medicine," sighed Mrs Monkey. "We must go to a doctor now." And they did.

The Doctor was just as concerned as Mrs Monkey. "Some *really* bad medicine is being sold in the market these days," he said. "People pay lots of money for it. Some of it is useless but some really harmful". So he sent Manga to the hospital. There they put something down his throat and made him even sicker. All this cost Mrs Monkey a great deal of money and made Manga very ashamed when his brothers and sisters teased him.