

A Visit to the Doctor

From the book, "Skits and Puppets" by the Boy Scouts of America

Characters: (All Characters played by Cub Scouts)

-A Mother, Mrs. Webelos

-Her 2-year-old baby

-Her Cub Scout sons, two at least but the more the merrier

-A doctor

-His office nurse

Costumes: Cubs wear full uniform in perfect order.

Mother is dressed for the street. A big hat with a veil is effective and makes a wig unnecessary. High-heeled slippers and a huge handkerchief complete the costume.

Baby wears his Cub Scout uniform covered by a long coat or dress. He wears a hood or babyish cap. The "baby" clothes must be easy for him to take off quickly.

Doctor wears a white professional coat. A dark mustache and horn rims (spectacles) are effective for a man.

Nurse wears a white uniform and cap. Yarn or wood shavings attached to cap make very amusing hair.

Props: Chairs for Cub brothers and to form partition between two rooms;

Large table for examining baby

Smaller table for nurse's work

Either a small typewriter for Nurse or a number of "instruments" for her to arrange. (Instruments might be large spoons and other kitchen ware, a saw, monkey wrench, and other carpenter's tools)

A big book or a toy microscope will keep the doctor busy.

Fill gallon jugs partly full with water colored with food coloring or watercolor paint. Be sure the labeling is very large so it can be read at a distance.

A wooden box with stones or similar objects in it to make a noise when shaken can be suspended from the tabletop with a rope. The nurse can kick or shake it at the right moment.

Be sure these last properties are carefully hidden under the table along with the trumpet. A bed sheet makes a good curtain and can be thumbtacked to the table easily.

A chair beside the table for Mrs. Webelos completes the scene.

Comic books, toys for Baby, and mother's purse will be easy to find.

Scene: A doctor's office. Waiting room and the doctor's private office are separated by a line of chairs facing the waiting room. A break in the line indicates door to inner office.

As the play begins, the doctor and nurse are busy in private office. Nurse types at small table or arranges "instruments" on table (kitchen cutlery and carpenter's tools). Doctor is busy with books or looks through toy microscope on large table (table is draped with sheet to hide area underneath). Both remain quiet, working until it's time for them to speak.

Enter waiting room: Mother dragging baby by the hand. Baby is fussing and reluctant to enter, but Cub Scout brothers help to get him into room. Each Cub Scout carries something for Mother or Baby: a large handbag, toy truck, teddy bear, box of crackers, umbrella, etc. These objects they put near Mother's chair and get baby seated as quickly as possible. Then Cub

Scouts (all at the same time) sit down in a line of chairs facing audience. They sit up straight with hands in laps, feet squarely on floor, looking straight ahead. Mother tries to quiet baby.

MOTHER: Thank you, boys! I just don't know what I'd do without you!

BOYS: *(In unison)* Thank you, Mother.

MOTHER: You may read, boys.

BOYS: *(In unison)* Thank you, Mother. *(Take comic books out of back pockets with right hands and begin to read. Make all speeches in unison. Enter Nurse)*

NURSE: *(Smiling with pleasure and surprise)* Ooooooh! Cub Scouts!

(Cub Scouts all jump up and salute sharply, smiling. Hold comic books in left hands at sides.)

NURSE: We love to have Cub Scouts come to see us!

CUB SCOUTS: *(Both hands at sides, standing very straight)* Thank you, Nurse!

NURSE: The doctor will see you now, Mrs. Webelos.

MOTHER: Thank you, Nurse. *(Tries to get Baby through door. Cubs come to her aid. Cubs do not go through the door, as Baby spies the microscope and climbs up on table grabbing it)*

MOTHER: *(To boys)* Thank you, boys. You're such a help to me.

(Doctor and Nurse hold Baby on table who squirms a great deal but does not cry out during Mother's and Cub Scouts' speeches.)

CUB SCOUTS: *(Going back to their chairs and getting out books again)* You're welcome, Mother dear.

(Baby tries to grab instruments, pulls Nurse's hair)

NURSE: *(Finally quiets him holding him tightly)*

DOCTOR: *(Remains calm through all this confusion)* Well, Mrs. Webelos, what seems to be the trouble?

MOTHER: *(Half-crying)* Oh, Doctor, this baby is driving me crazy! The other boys are so wonderful, but this child is different!

DOCTOR: Well, that seems perfectly normal.

MOTHER: But, Doctor, I just can't stand it! You'll just have to do something!

DOCTOR: *(Turning to Baby on table)* Hello, young fellow! Let's take a look at you.

BABY: *(Struggling while Nurse holds him tighter)* Wah-aah! Waaahh!

DOCTOR: *(Pulls huge lollipop out of his pocket and holds it up in front of Baby's face. Baby opens his mouth and Doctor peers in)* His throat looks fine! *(Gives Baby lollipop.)*

DOCTOR: Now I want to examine your head. *(Takes trumpet which Nurse hands him and examines Baby's ears holding small end against his head and looking into wide end.)* His ears look fine! *(Now takes Baby's head in his hands and wobbles it from side to side. As he does this Nurse shakes a box of stones hidden under table which makes a loud hollow sound.)*

DOCTOR: *(Very seriously)* Sounds perfectly normal to me.

MOTHER: Why, it sounds half empty to me!

DOCTOR: My dear madam, no baby has much in his head.

MOTHER: But, Doctor, I do wish you'd tell me what makes him so naughty.

DOCTOR: *(Puzzled)* Let me see... *(Paces floor, arms crossed, chin in hand. Suddenly sees Cub Scouts quietly reading in outer room. Snaps fingers.)* Ahhhh! That's it! *(To Mother)* The trouble with your baby, madam, is that he wants so awfully much to be a Cub Scout like his wonderful brothers—and he can't wait six more years!

MOTHER: Neither can I! *(Weeps noisily into large handkerchief.)*

NURSE: *(Pats Mother comfortingly)* There, there now, Mrs. Webelos. Don't cry.

DOCTOR: You won't *have* to wait, Mrs. Webelos. *(To Nurse)* Nurse, let's give him the works!

(Nurse brings out from under table gallon jug of blue water labeled "WOLF SHOTS." "Fills" fly spray "hypo" and hands it to Doctor. Baby fights wildly, but Doctor gives him a "shot" in the arm.)

(Baby sits up and looks around saying nothing. Mother is astonished and stops weeping.)

MOTHER: Oh, I can hardly believe it!

(Nurse brings out second bottle of green water labeled "BEAR SHOTS." Doctor gives Baby shot in chest. Baby gets down from table and sits quietly on chair.)

MOTHER: *(Getting up and calling to Cub Scouts in outer office)* Boys! Come and see what's happening! *(Cub Scouts troop into room and stand politely watching. Nurse brings out third*

bottle marked "WEBELOS SHOTS" holding red water. They give Baby a shot in the leg. Baby snatches off coat and hood and stands saluting in full Cub Scout uniform.)

DOCTOR: Attention! *(All Cub Scouts line up and salute beside Baby.)* Forward march! *(Baby picks up trumpet and toots merrily as he and his brothers march out of the room through waiting room and offstage. Mother is shaking Doctor's hand. Nurse gathers up her belongings and loads her with them.)*

MOTHER: *(Burdened down with her things calls to Doctor)* Doctor, I'll bet you were a Cub Scout when you were a boy!

(Nurse and Doctor give Cub Scout salute. Mother exits.)

CURTAIN