

## Out to Lunch Bunny Routine

This is a routine that I designed specifically to entertain very young kids when I was working regularly in a family restaurant. I continue to use it anytime I do strolling magic and there are young children to entertain. It's easy to do, makes kids laugh, fools most lay people and has the added benefit of providing a way to give out a business card.

What you'll need: a rubber band, business cards, a squeaker, a rabbit in hat tricky paddle, a Sharpie and a rabbit rubber stamp.

**Preparation:** The trick uses the 'Out to Lunch' effect. Begin by stamping about 12 or so business cards with the bunny stamp. My card is has a vertical orientation, so I stamp the bunny on the back of the card in the lower half of the card when held in vertical (portrait) orientation. (If your card is horizontal you can stamp to the right or the left of center... just adjust the directions accordingly.) Cut one of your business cards in half. Now make a stack of cards with about eight unprepared cards face down, the 12 prepared business cards and the lower half of your business card covering the bunny stamp on the topmost card in the stack. Hold everything in place with a rubber band. The rubber band should completely cover the edge of the half card so that you can't see there is a half card on the stack and the pack just looks like an innocent stack of business cards surrounded by a rubber band.

Put the squeaker in your right pocket if right-handed and left pocket if left-handed.

**Presentation:** *"Hi, let me show you my friend the rabbit. He lives right here inside the hat on this stick."* Show the paddle with the empty hat showing.

*"Oh, he's not there maybe he's on the other side."* Do the paddle move to show what appears to be an empty hat on the other side.

*"Hmmm... he's not there either. Oh, I remember he hides behind my knee."* Put the paddle behind your knee, turn the paddle over and show it with the rabbit in the hat side showing.

*"Yes, there he is. Watch this, I am going to take him out of the hat..."* Put your hand around the paddle end of the paddle; turn it empty side up under cover of your hand and feint pulling him out of the hat and off the stick.

*"...toss him in the air and catch him back in the hat."* Make gestures to match what you say and as you toss him up in the air and as you follow his imaginary track turn the paddle back rabbit side up. The spectator's eyes will follow yours so you can openly turn the paddle over.

*"Do you want to try?"* Pretend to remove the bunny in the same manner as before and pretend to give the bunny to your young spectator.

*"Okay, now throw him into the hat."* Hold the stick empty side visible to your audience near your face as a target for the spectator. When the spectator throws the bunny pretend he has hit you in the eye with the bunny. (This is a guaranteed laugh for anyone under seven.)

*"Ouch. You need to aim better than that."* Give the pretend bunny back to the youngster and let him toss it towards the stick again, but this time turn the stick bunny side visible while moving the paddle as if to catch the bunny on the end.

*"Good job. Would you like to take the bunny home?"* Regardless of what he says get out your stack of prepared cards. *"You can take him home on this... a picture of me..."* (assuming your card has a picture of you on it).

*"...let me make it special for you. What is your name?"* Write the child's name on the top area of the backside of the first card in the face down stack. That should be one of the prepared cards. *"To Johnny... from Mike. That's me."* (I recommend you use the child's real name and your name instead of mine.) Now, turn the stack face up and slide out the bottom card the one that you just wrote on and which has a bunny stamped at the bottom. Pull it out from the end you wrote on. Don't pull out the half card, which covers the bunny when the cards are face down.

Place the card on a table or have someone hold it face up on the palm of their hand. When you put the pen away get your squeaker.

*"Now, pick a place to put the bunny."* Indicate that the spectator should put the bunny on the face of the card.

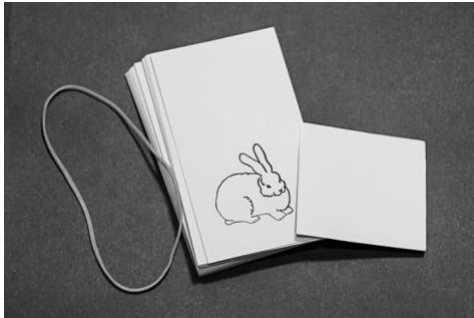
*"Did you put him here?"* Squeak the squeaker as you touch a spot on the card once or twice.

*"Oh my, I squeezed him a bit too much. I bet he ran 'round to the other side. Turn the card over and check for me."* When the spectator turns the card over they'll see the bunny in the lower portion of the card and the names written at the top.

Expect someone else to ask for your card. Give him one of the unprepared cards which are at the top of the stack when oriented face up.



*What you need: Business cards, squeezer, rubber stamp and bunny paddle... not shown a Sharpie and a stamp pad.*



*Stamp a bunch of cards at the bottom on the back. Then cover the stack of stamped cards with ½ a business card and hold it in place with a rubber band, using the rubber band to cover the seam. The half card should cover the stamp.*



*Write in the blank area above the rubber band on the card. It will appear as if you are writing on a blank card but you are actually writing on the first card with bunny stamped on it. Turn the stack over and remove the card from the stack with the signature and stamp facing down and place on the table.*



*When the card is turned over it will seem as if the bunny magically appeared under your writing.*