Make Your Own Kamishibai

To create a Kamishibai picture story just follow these simple instructions:

1. Start with between eight and twelve blank A3 or A4 cards
2. Break the story down into main events
3. Draw illustrations for each scene on the cards
4. The story can now be written on the reverse of the cards: the text for card one goes on the reverse of the final cards, the text for card two goes on the back of card one, the text for card three goes on the back of card two. In this way, as the cards are lifted from the front and put to the back of the set you will have the text for the card facing the audience in front of you to read.
5. Now you are ready to tell the story to your friends!

Text for the first picture card goes on the back of the final card.

The story cards have the text for the following picture on the back of them. This allows you to read the story as you show each story picture. Once you have practiced the story a few times you will not need to rely on the text so much and soon you will be telling the story all by yourself!
Mini Kamishibai Theatre

To create the mini Kamishibai theatre just follow these simple instructions:

1. Cut a large rectangular shape from the front of a jumbo match box. (Decorate the box if desired.)
2. Cut one end off the tray that holds the matches so that the box is now open at one end.
3. Colour the pictures on the Kamishibai cards and cut out the cards.
4. Slot the cards inside the box ensuring they are in the correct order. Now you are ready to tell the story to your friends! The story cards have the text for the following picture on the back of them.

This allows you to read the story as you show each story picture. Once you have practiced the story a few times you will not need to rely on the text so much and soon you will be telling the story all by yourself!