



kidditech

inspiring the einstein in every child

physics & science

balloon rocket

and more...

Children love balloons; we recommend you give this activity a try. Good for a rainy day.

How to make:

Take a small piece of paper and make it into a tube around a piece of wool or string, sellotape to hold tube in shape. Tie each end of wool or string to chairs or doorknobs, making a tight string line. Next blow up the balloon and sellotape to the small tube of paper, make sure you don't tie a knot in the balloon or let it go yet.

Start with the balloon rocket down one end of the string
Have your child hold the balloon and do a count down (5..4..3..2..1..
Blastoff!). Let the balloon go. It will race along the string line.

You might like to decorate the balloon together with pens, permanent markers are best.
Now experiment with the angle of the string line by moving one end of the string up or down and see how far the rocket travels.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Balloons
- String or wool
- Straws
- Sellotape
- Scissors
- Marker pens

How it works:

Scientists have a rule: For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. And it's the rule that explains how this rocket works. The blast of air rushing out of the balloon in one direction pushes it in the opposite direction. Isaac Newton discovered this scientific rule hundreds of years ago. Real rockets have enormous tanks for fuel and oxygen that ignite and push the rocket up into the air.



other ideas with balloons:

- Rub an inflated tied balloon on a wool jersey or wool carpet and stick it to the wall, see how long it takes to fall off. Static electricity makes it stick to the wall.
- Hold a static balloon over someone's hair and watch the static electricity work.
- Blow up a balloon, hold the balloon with the opening towards you, then let the balloon go completely. Watch the direction the balloon heads in - did you feel the air rush out?
- Now make your own activity from a balloon...