

Balloon Hovercraft



To see the hovercraft in action, [watch this video](#)

These are really quick and easy to make. We had great fun playing with them for quite a long time. These are a better project for the older children at your club, as younger children may find the balloons and pop-up caps a bit fiddly.

Equipment

Old CDs
Pop-up drink bottle caps
Hot-melt glue gun
Balloons
Toilet roll tubes
Scissors

Method

1. Using the hot glue gun, stick the bottle cap over the hole in the middle of the CD.
2. Cut a toilet roll tube in half. You only need one half per hovercraft. Then cut from top to bottom so that it has an open side.
3. Blow up a balloon, twist the end to stop the air coming out, but don't tie it! Stretch the mouth of the balloon over the top of the bottle cap. Make sure the cap is closed. Untwist the balloon.
4. Place the cardboard tube around the bottom of the balloon, this will help it to stay upright as the air escapes.
5. To make the CDs hover you just need to pull open the drinks cap to let the air out of the balloon - but without pulling the balloon off! It takes a bit of practice. Some children found it easier to put the cardboard support around the balloon first and others found it easiest to open the cap first and then slip the card onto the balloon afterwards.
6. You could set up a race course for your hovercraft. They don't ever seem to go in a straight line! Or you could have a ring and the winner is the hovercraft which stays in longest, or gets furthest away. It all depends how well they float on your floor!

Tip: Make a prototype and practise with it on a few different surfaces before trying them with the children. Some flooring works better than others and it's very disappointing when they don't float!

Areas of learning and development:

PSED Personal, Social and Emotional Development
PD Physical Development
EAD Expressive Arts and Design