



Balloon Racers

This activity can be done inside or out so is great fun whatever the weather. It uses very few materials and can be scaled up or down depending on the number and ages of the children.

Equipment

Wide drinking straws

String

Balloons

Sticky tape (masking tape works best)

Chairs or something to tie the string to

Balloon pump (optional but easier!)

Method

1. Tie one end of a piece of string to the back of a chair.
2. Thread a straw onto the string.
3. Cut 2 strips of masking tape about 15cms long and stick them across the back of the straw facing down.
4. Tie the other end of the string to another chair a couple of metres away (or as far as your space will allow).
5. Blow up a balloon and hold the end tightly, but don't tie it off.
6. Stick the back of the balloon underneath the straw with the masking tape.
7. Let go of the end of the balloon, watch it fly along the string. Blow the balloon up again and repeat.
8. Set up two or more strings and hold races.

Notes

This activity can be as simple as just setting up two strings and seeing whose balloon arrives first, but we had a lot of fun trying out different size straws, different angles of string, sticking the balloons on in different places, etc. The children can get seriously engaged trying to get the best results.

The children could also decorate their own balloon with pens before they try to race them.

Areas of learning and development:

PSED Personal, Social and Emotional Development

PD Physical Development

UW Understanding the Word