

Pirates Cannon Craft

Objective

To explore forces while improving dexterity and making a simple toy.

Materials:

Paper cups or loo roll tubes

Balloons

Tape

Pompoms or tissue paper balls

Optional: Colours or stickers for decoration

Who doesn't love to launch projectiles and yell, "cannon ball!" This is great craft for young children that allows them to explore pull and push forces while making their own cannon. Give it a pirate theme with your decorations and have a blast!

Instructions:

If using paper cups remove the bottom so they become hollow tubes. If using loo roll tube cut off about 1/3 to shorten the tube.

Cut the rounded top of the balloon, so that it can be stretched over an opening.

Tie the end of the balloon in a knot and then stretch over the bottom of the paper cup or toilet tube. Secure with tape if necessary. Colour in or use stickers to decorate your cannons.

To Launch Cannons:

Place pompom or tissue paper ball in tube or cup, pull down on knotted end of balloon and then fire!

After a few rounds of firing cannons, discuss how the cannon works. What makes the ball fly out of the tube? When we pull down on the knot, we are applying a force. When we let go the force is transferred to the ball and it is pushed out of the cannon.

