



# Toy-Drop Parachute

Swap game night with invention night and kick it off with this fun STEM activity! You will be challenged to create your own parachute in order to help your toy safely land.

## Materials Needed

- Small toy (animal figurine, stuffy, action figure, doll, etc)
- Parachute material (plastic grocery bag, scrap fabric, bandanna, plastic wrap, bubble wrap - experiment with different options, just ask a grown-up first if the material is ok, especially if it requires any cutting).
- String/Yarn/Twine
- Scissors
- Tape



## Creating Your Parachuter

- With a grown-up's permission, scour the basement, recycle bin, junk drawer, and garage for items you can use to construct your parachute. Bandannas and plastic grocery bags are great options, but lots of things will work, so get creative!
- Choose one small toy for each parachute. You'll want one that has a couple spots you can attach a string to. You also don't want it to be too heavy or it will make your parachute drop too quickly.
- Cut 2-4 lengths of string between 8-10" long. The number of strings will depend on what you're using for your parachute - like if it's a plastic grocery bag, you probably just need 2, if it's a bandanna, you'll want 4.
- Tie or tape one end of each piece of string to the parachute material (the handles if it's a bag, the corners if it's something square like a bandanna).
- Tie or tape the other ends to your toy.
- When you're finished, have an adult take your parachuter and safely stand at the top of a high space (like a stairwell, balcony, or an upper story window).
- Wait at the bottom so you can observe how the parachute falls.
- Count down from 10 and then launch the parachute!
- Use your powers of observation to make modifications and then test it again to improve the safety of the landing as many times as needed!

