



Candy Catapult

This fun STEM activity is kid-approved! Create a catapult and set goals to see how far you can launch a piece of candy. When you meet your goal, keep the excitement going by testing with other items! See how many feet you can launch your items!

Materials Needed

- Candy (or other soft, nonbreakable items)
- Tape
- Scissors
- Popsicle sticks
- Objects found around the house
- A ruler, tape measure or yardstick
- Rubber bands, Hair ties
- bucket, bin or pot (a target to aim for)

Building Your Catapult

- With a grown-up's permission, scour the basement, recycle bin, junk drawer, and garage for items you can use to construct your catapult. Popsicle sticks, spoons and scrap wood are great, but lots of things will work, so get creative!
- Take about 20 minutes to build your catapult. Use rubber bands, hair ties, or other elastic to create the spring you'll need to launch your catapult.
- When you're finished building, set up a launching pad and a target that's about 10 feet away. Choose a location that's away from any breakable items or other people and have your grown-up approve.
- Count down from 10 as you test your catapult! Cheer when the candy (or other launched item) lands on the target. Redesign your catapults if you are not successful the first time!
- Next, try launching marshmallow or soft toys to test how materials of different weights travel different distances!
- 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!

Safety is super important! Be sure to build your catapult with this in mind. Ask an adult to approve of your catapult before testing it. If you're not sure if something is safe or ok to use, don't include it.

