Catapult STEM Challenge

Ages 7–12 · 30–40 min · Small groups

Learning intention

This experience supports children to hypothesise and investigate, and to take turns and test fairly.

You'll need

- Pop sticks
- Rubber bands
- Bottle lids
- Pom poms to launch

How to do it

1. Set out the materials with a sign asking 'Can you make a catapult?'
2. Children experiment with stacking and binding pop sticks to make a launcher.
3. Test how far a pom pom flies and adjust the design.
4. Compare designs and talk about tension, force and distance.

Framework links

MTOP

- **4.2** Children and young people develop a range of learning and thinking skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating
- **2.3** Children and young people become aware of fairness

NQS

- **3.2.2** Resources support play-based learning - Resources, materials and equipment allow for multiple uses, are sufficient in number, and enable every child to engage in play-based learning.

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