Confetti Popper

Best for Ages	Workspace	Is electricity required?
5+	Tabletop	No

Description

Why buy Confetti Poppers from the store when you can make your own with materials you already have at home? The best part is, they are reusable!

Materials

For one Popper

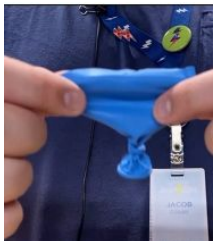
- 1 toilet paper tube
- 1 balloon (you could also use a rubber glove)
- 1 handful of confetti material cut into small pieces. (crepe paper, notebook paper, tissue paper, ribbon, wrapping paper, etc.)
- Tape
- Scissors
- Markers

Concepts Explored

- Newton's Law
- Potential Energy

What to Do

1. Take an empty 11" balloon and tie the stem. Do not blow up the balloon.
2. Once tied, take a pair of scissors and cut off the top of the balloon. Leave two inches of the body of the balloon so that when it's cut, you have the tied tail of the balloon and enough of the stem and bulb to place around the toilet paper tube.
3. Stretch out the bulb and tied stem of the balloon and place this open mouth over one end of the toilet paper tube.
4. Secure with tape. You want the balloon to be firmly secured to the toilet paper tube.
5. Decorate the tube with stickers, markers, and other materials.
6. Place confetti inside open end of the tube.
7. Hold onto the toilet paper tube with one hand and pull back on the balloon with the other hand.
8. Let go! When you do, you should see confetti come out of the end!



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Troubleshooting Tips

If your confetti popper is not popping:

1. Adjust the confetti- you may have too much or not enough. Try a lighter weight confetti such as tissue paper. Smaller pieces will fly farther.
2. Check the tape- if the balloon is not secure, it can't build up the momentum needed to push out the confetti.
3. Try a new balloon. There might be a hole in the balloon.

What happens when you put in more confetti? Less?

How far can you make your confetti popper fly? How high?

What would happen if you tried a different confetti material?

What is Happening?

- **Newton's Third Law of Motion** says for every action there is an opposite reaction. When you pull down on the balloon, you build up potential energy. **Potential energy** is stored energy created by stretching the balloon. When you release the balloon quickly, the stored energy turns into kinetic (energy in motion) energy which forces the confetti out of the tube in the opposite direction of the balloon's motion.

Taking it Forward

- **Connecting this activity to the real world:**
  - Can you find anything else in your home that follows Newton's Third Law of Motion? (For every action, there is an opposite reaction.)
- **If you like this activity, you'll also like...**
  - Air Powered Vehicles
  - Bernoulli Obstacle Course