



ACTIVITY 6: RECYCLED MARBLE RUN

AGE: Kindergarteners through Grade 3

WHAT YOU’LL NEED:

- A marble, bouncy ball, or other small ball
- An assortment of recycled materials such as cardboard, bottles, and cans that have been checked for hazards such as sharp edges
- Tape
- Scissors and a can opener

PURPOSE

In elementary school, your child is learning the beginnings of engineering concepts, including designing, experimenting, constructing, and changing an idea to solve a problem. In this activity, your child will use a variety of materials to construct a tunnel or tube for a marble to travel through. By using trial and error your child will learn how to make changes and adjustments to the materials to help get the ball or marble to the place they would like it to go.



This activity relates to the Engineering Design element of the **Science** domain of the VELs.

HERE’S WHAT YOU CAN DO!

1. Begin by helping your child find recycled materials and get them ready to use for this project. You may need a can opener or scissors to remove the bottoms of cans and bottles to allow the ball or marble to pass through it. Note: Be sure to check for sharp and rough edges before giving them to your child!
2. Encourage your child to examine the materials and think about how they may connect to form a tunnel or run for the marble or ball to pass through.
3. Have them tape the recycled materials to the wall or a piece of cardboard in different ways to test how the ball travels through their creation.
4. Ask them questions like, “What do you think will make it go faster?” and “Where do you think it’s getting stuck?”



