

ROCKET BALLOON GAME

Purpose

- Communication
- Social Skills
- Language Development
- Shared enjoyment
- Attention and concentration

Materials

- Rocket balloon game kit
(rocket balloons and balloon hand pump)



Description

This is one of our favourite activities to play with people of all ages. Even those who have an oversensitivity to sound tend to find it enjoyable and tolerable (if they choose to block their ears during parts of the game that is of course acceptable!). Use the hand pump to inflate the rocket balloon, let it go and watch it fly through the air! The rocket balloons make a fun whistling noise as they fly and zip around the room going up, down, over and under.

Next level

To increase the skill areas you would like to focus on, you could choose to introduce more steps within the activity. For example:

- Offer a choice between two (or more) balloons – this encourages choice making as well as identification of colours
- Talk about size concepts such as “long” and “short”, “big” and “small” when you are deciding how much to inflate the balloon
- Introduce an anticipatory routine such as “ready, set, go!”, or “one, two, three!” before you let the balloon go. After a while introduce pausing (i.e. say “ready, set....”) and wait for the person you are playing with to signal “go!”
- Talk about the manner / direction in which you will let the balloon go – will you let it go “up”? “down”?
- Talk about the sound the balloon makes – it is “quiet”, “loud”, “squeaky”, etc
- Talk about where the balloon lands – opportunity to introduce / practice a range of concepts such as “in”, “on”, “under”, “on top”, “between”, “in the kitchen”, “under the table”, etc
- Practice turn taking and other great social skills if playing in a group setting