What Rolls?



Goal: Build a ramp, find objects, and explore if they will roll or won't roll and and what they have in common

You might use:

cardboard, cardboard tubes, stack of books, bean bags, coins, pencils, toy
cars, paperclips, rulers, cans, blocks, cotton balls, small toys, a roll of
masking tape, a sponge, markers, a spoon

What to do:

- Build a ramp. You might use cardboard tubes, cardboard, and a stack of books or other object to elevate the ramp.
- Collect objects to roll down the ramp. You might collect bean bags, coins, pencils, toy cars, paperclips, rulers, cans, blocks, cotton balls, small toys, a roll of masking tape, a sponge, markers or a spoon.
- Test to see which objects will roll. Sort the objects into two piles objects that roll and objects that don't roll.
- Decide what characteristics the rolling objects have in common.
- Find other objects that have these same characteristics and see if they will roll too.

Other things to try:

- Change the angle of your ramp. Notice how it changes the speed objects travel down the ramp.
- Build a ramp with a different surface or texture. Notice if this changes the speed objects travel down the ramp.
- Gather different round objects. For example, find a cotton ball, a marble, a tennis ball, a golf ball, a rubber ball, a whiffle ball, and/or a foam ball. Predict which one will be slowest, then test to see if your predication was correct.
- Have a race with two objects. Let them go at the same time. Which one reaches the end of the ramp first?

