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Create a confetti popper

Celebrate the New Year and learn about energy transfer at the same time.

What you need

- Balloon
- Scissors
- Kitchen roll tube
- Sticky tape
- Wrapping paper
- Paper confetti

How does it work?

This activity is all about energy transfer. When you pull back the balloon, potential energy is being stored – this is the energy held by an object. When you release the balloon, that potential energy is transferred to kinetic energy – this is the energy that objects have when they move. The balloon propels the air in the tube forward, pushing the paper confetti out of the tube and into the air.



1 Tie your balloon at the end while it is deflated. Then, chop the top off the balloon to leave only the knotted end.



2 Cut a kitchen roll tube in half and stretch the open end of the balloon around the tube. Secure it in place using sticky tape.



3 Wrap some wrapping paper around the kitchen roll tube to make it look fancy. Stick it down with sticky tape.



4 Now, fill the open end of the tube with lots of paper confetti. Aim it at the sky and pull the balloon knot down and then release. Pop!

