

Play Park Physics

A fun way to look at forces

Primary

Science



Background information:

We are affected by forces all the time in our day to day lives and yet we barely give them any thought.

This activity will encourage students to consider the variables that affect how items move and how they can influence factors affecting a item as it moves down a slide/slope.

Equipment

- A slide, or alternative sloping surface.
- Things to roll/slide down with different surfaces/shapes (e.g. a ball, a pencil, different clothing etc.)
- Stopwatch
- Recording sheet

Activity

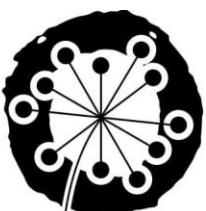
Complete recording sheets- Weigh objects, record features, and make predictions about which will travel down the slide quickest.

Put each item down the slide/slope. Time how long it takes your different objects to get from the top to the bottom of the slide

Why does it take longer for some things?
What happens when the gradient of the slope is increased?
What happens when you put oil or liquid detergent on the slide? Use this to explain friction, and why for example ice makes pavements slippery.

Taking it further

Get children to think of ways of slowing themselves down/speeding themselves up if they were to travel down the slide... e.g. what kind of clothes are they wearing



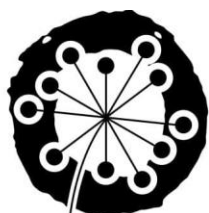
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Item	Notable features eg, Shape, texture etc	Weight	Time down taken to travel down the slide/slope



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