



making physics matter



Age
3-5
years

Phizzi enquiry

Balloon beards

A Phizzi Foundation enquiry, taken from the EYFS Science Talk programme for Ogden primary partnerships.



Key questions

- Q. What does the balloon feel like to touch?
- Q. How is the pepper different/similar to the balloon?
- Q. How could we get the pepper to stick to the balloon without touching it?
- Q. What would happen if... (we used salt/we rubbed the balloon on different things)?

Resources

- Balloons/pump
- Black marker pens
- Paper plates
- Cracked black pepper (using ground pepper is more tricky to control and more likely to induce sneezing)
- Other herbs/spices
- Large paper, crayons, materials for recording
- Film:
<http://dailypicksandflicks.com/2015/03/29/static-cat-vs-balloons-video/>
*H&S – Allergies: balloons contain latex; pepper (or other herbs/spices) may aggravate sensitivities

Early learning goals

C&L (40-60+) understanding: Children answer 'how' and 'why' questions about their experiences.

C&L (40-60+) speaking: They develop their own narratives and explanations by connecting ideas or events.

UtW (40-60+) the world: Children know about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things.

Activity: Balloon beards

Engage: Begin by allowing children to handle the balloons. Record any interesting comments/observations. If the children do not have experience of static electricity, direct this using long hair, a woolly jumper or the video.

Explore: Use a white balloon (with a pre-drawn face) and a paper plate of cracked black pepper. Ask the children how they could get the pepper to 'stick' to the balloon to make a beard without using glue or tape. Use the key questions below to guide the discussion. Model how to pose investigative questions using, "What would happen if...?" Encourage children to pose their own questions and find the answers (eg use a different material to rub the balloon on or to pick up). Allow time to explore these ideas.

Conclude: Return to the balloon and reverse the problem, "How could we stop the pepper sticking to the balloon? and try out their ideas (eg water, oil, lotion, hairspray) relating to real life. Invite the children to explain what they observed.

