

BALANCING OBJECTS

ACTIVITY TO DO AT HOME



FIND OUT WHAT MAKES AN OBJECT EASIER TO BALANCE.

What types of sides help an object balance?

TIME 15 minutes

MATERIALS

- A table or a space on a hard floor for balancing objects
- 3 sheets of paper and a pencil or pen
- 1–2 nonbreakable objects that have a pointy or narrow side, such as pencils, crayons, and rulers
- 1–2 nonbreakable objects that have a flat side, such as blocks and small boxes
- 1–2 nonbreakable objects that have a round side, such as small toys and plastic cups

DIRECTIONS

1 SET UP

Gather the objects, and set them on the table. Write *Yes* at the top of one sheet of paper. Write *No* at the top of one sheet of paper. Write *Sometimes* at the top of the last sheet of paper.

2 GOAL

Your child will **investigate** objects with different shapes. They will **predict** whether the objects can or cannot balance. They will **test** which objects balance and **keep track** of the results.

3 EXPLORE

Your child can **observe** the objects you gathered. Ask your child to describe the types of sides the objects have.

4 EXPLORE

Your child can pick one of the objects. Your child can **observe** the object and **predict** whether it will balance.

5 EXPLORE

Your child can **test** whether the object can balance. Use a table or a hard floor for the balance tests. Encourage your child to try to balance the object on each of its sides. The object may balance on one side but not on others.



6

EXPLORE

Your child can **keep track** of the results. Give your child the sheets of paper marked Yes, No, and Sometimes. Your child can place the object on a sheet of paper. Place the object on Yes if it balances on all of its sides. Place the object on No if it does not balance on any of its sides. Place the object on Sometimes if the object balances on some of its sides.

7

EXPLORE

Repeat steps 4–6 with each object. When your child finishes, all the objects will be on the Yes, No, or Sometimes sheets of paper.

8

SHARE

Encourage your child to **share** what they notice about the objects on each sheet of paper. Ask, *What types of sides help an object balance?* Talk with your child about how flat sides, pointy sides, and round sides balance or do not balance. What other objects could your child test?



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