

# MARBLE RUN

0-5 YEARS

Collect cardboard tubes from the centre of giftwrap and kitchen rolls to make this crafty marble run.

**ENCOURAGES: Construction ★ Reasoning ★ Problem Solving**

## STORE CUPBOARD

- Cardboard tubes
- Pencil, scissors & craft knife
- Poster paints in different colours
- Paintbrushes
- Marbles

**1** Before you start making your marble run, talk to the children about how it will work. Encourage them to help you design it; how many towers will it have for example and the number of chutes. Remember that the chutes will all have to have a slight downward slope. Sketch your design out on paper.

**2** Take your cardboard tubes and begin by constructing the towers. Cut lengths of tubes and push them inside other tubes to achieve the height you want.

**3** Decide where you want your chutes to come out from on your towers and mark with a pencil. Cut out semi-circular slits with a craft knife (adult use only!). Use the picture on the right for guidance.

**4** Take more cardboard tubes and cut them in half horizontally to make the chutes. Cut a small notch in one end to allow the marbles to drop through.

**5** To complete your marble run, paint all your cardboard pieces, leave to dry and then put it all together following your design. Then send the marbles down!



### TIP

Make sure the chutes are pushed as far as possible into the slits to stop the marbles falling straight down the cardboard towers.

## PROBLEM SOLVING ACTIVITIES

### Encouraging Logical Thinking

- Ask the children to tell you what ingredients are needed to make a cake. Depending on their age and ability you can then ask them to tell you the correct sequence of how a cake is made.
- Do the children have any pets? Pick two of the animals named and ask the children to give you some differences between the two, e.g dog and cat.
- Tell the children you are going on holiday. Can they think of items you will need to take with you?
- Ask the children what they have to do each night to get ready for bed.

### Encouraging Creative Thinking

- Show the children a cardboard tube from the centre of a kitchen roll and ask them what objects they think could be made from it.
- Ask the children what their favourite colours are. Pick one colour at a time and ask them to name as many things as possible that come in that colour.
- Put a few interesting objects onto a tray and get the children to link them in a story. It doesn't matter how wacky it is!
- Show the children pictures of people with different expressions, happy, sad etc. Ask them why the people may feel like that.

### We're Going on a Treasure Hunt!

Tell the children they are going on a treasure hunt and that somewhere in the room there is buried treasure (which you have placed there undetected earlier!). Give the children directional instructions such as "two steps forward", "three steps to the right" etc. to move them towards the treasure. Sweets such as juice jellies are a good treasure to use!

### What's in the Box?

Find a medium sized cardboard box and tape up any flaps. Turn it over and cut a hole big enough to fit a child's hand through but not so you can see inside. Place in the box a number of different items and see if the children can guess what they are by touch alone.