

Activity 1: Kinetic Art

In this activity, your students hang letters from a straw to create a mobile that balances.



Supplies

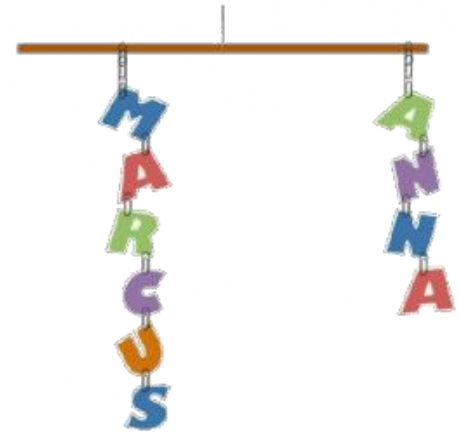
- construction paper or card stock paper
- straws
- paperclips
- scissors

When

This activity could be done either as an introduction to playing *PuppyBot Rescue*, or as another way to reinforce and apply what the students learned while playing *PuppyBot Rescue*.

Steps

1. Supply students with heavy paper, plenty of paperclips, and straws (or something on which to hang the letters).
2. Working alone or in teams, have your students cut the letters of their name (or another word) out of the paper.
3. Each letter is then attached to the bottom of a chain of paperclips. Each chain could be the same length or a student could vary the number of paperclips to make longer and shorter chains. The top paperclip in the chain is hung on the straw.



4. Challenge the students to hang all of the letters from the straw so that the straw will balance when hanging from the ceiling. The different sizes of letters, total number of letters, and the lengths of chains will require different arrangements along the length of the straw.
5. Alternatively, students can work in teams to balance two or more names on a single straw. Student chains the letters of their names together using paperclips. Challenge the team to hang all the name-chains from the straw so that it balances when hanging from the ceiling.