



**Learning Math and
Science Through Play**

Static Electricity

Experience the hair-raising power of static electricity!

What You Will Need:

- Balloons
- Variety of fabrics (especially wool, fleece, flannel, dryer sheets, silk, cotton, etc.)
- Salt
- Rice cereal
- Packing peanuts
- Small pieces of tissue paper



Here's What To Do:

- Blow up a balloon and tie off the end.
- Rub the balloon on your head. What happens to your hair?
- Try holding the balloon close to your arm or a fuzzy sweater. What happens?

Now Try This:

- Blow up your balloon and tie off the end.
- Rub the balloon on a friend's head. What happens to their hair? Is it different than what happened with your hair?
- Next, rub a variety of fabrics against your balloon.
- Then, using just the static electricity you've created, try to pick up: salt, rice cereal, packing peanuts or tissue paper.

More To Explore:

- What happens if you hold two balloons close to each other?
- What happens if you rub the balloons on different fabrics and try holding them close to each other again?
- How close can you get the balloon without picking up the salt, cereal, etc.?
- Can you make tissue paper jump from your hand to the balloon?
- Can you make the cereal or salt dance?



Books To Read Together:

- *My First Science Textbook: Atoms* by Mary Wissinger
- *Balloon Trees* by Danna Smith
- *Harvey Potter's Balloon Farm* by Mark Buehner
- *Fun With Static Electricity* by Chocolate Tree



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