

BALLOON ROCKET RACERS with Marigold Haske

Balloon Rocket Racers

My boys had such a blast with this project! We raced our balloon rockets over and over.

Tip: Make sure you have a bunch of extra balloons and tape on hand! — Marigold Haske

Activity Time: 45 minutes

What You Need

- Toilet paper tubes
- Acrylic craft paint (assorted colors)
- Duct tape (assorted colors)
- Washi tape (assorted colors)
- Markers
- Balloons
- Tape
- String, 6 feet to 8 feet per racer



How to Make It

For each rocket racer, paint cardboard tube gray and allow to dry.



Cut four slits into the top of the tube, about an inch long each to make four flaps.



Press two opposite flaps in and the other two flaps over so their corners meet to make a conical top. Place a small piece of tape to hold temporarily.



Wrap colorful duct tape around the cone top. Cut slits down the top of the tape and fold into the cone.



Cut a piece of 2-inch duct tape and fold in half, but don't allow the raw edges to stick together.



Stick the exposed sticky part of the tape to the side of the rocket. Trim into a right triangle. Add washi tape details.



Use a marker to draw on a window portal.



Time to Race

Tie one end of a long piece of string to something sturdy like a rail, chair or table. There should be one string per racer at least 6 feet long. Thread the loose end of the string through the top (cone end) of the racer and add tape to the inside of the rocket with sticky-side out.



Blow up the balloons, but don't tie them off. Tape the rocket to the balloons with the opening facing the rear end of the rocket. Pull the string tight and release the balloons at the same time, propelling the rockets forward. The first balloon to reach the end of the string wins!



Extend the Fun

Experiment! Hold the string loosely and then pull it tight. What happens when you hold one string up high and one string down low? Have your kids guess which racer will win in each scenario!

Marigold Haske is the designer, maker, and author behind the craft blog [Hideous! Dreadful! Stinky!](#) where she offers functional crafts for the home and family. Chock-full of tutorials, inspiration, sew-alongs and irreverent humor for the DIY mama, Marigold writes for an ever-growing community of artful souls who embrace a fun, quirky, handmade life. She lives, works and plays in Charlottesville, Virginia, with her charming husband and their two exceptionally silly sons, Huck and Milo.



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