



Bottle-Tube Ball Track

Connect prepared plastic-bottle tubes to make a rolling track. Your child can follow the ball, predict its path, and try to catch it before it lands.

Helps Your Child Grow



Emergent Mathematical Thinking

Repeatedly watching a ball travel through the tube helps your child anticipate its exit point and timing.

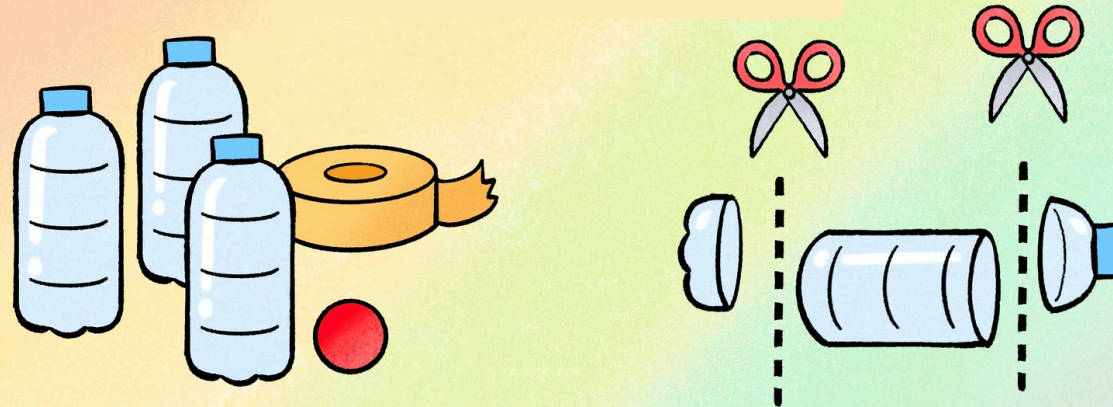


Fine Motor

Moving to the exit and catching the falling ball gives your child practice coordinating visual information with hand and body movement.



What You'll Need



Tubes made from plastic bottles

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1. Three prepared plastic-bottle tubes, with tops and bottoms removed
2. tape
3. a small ball



One Tube, a Short Track

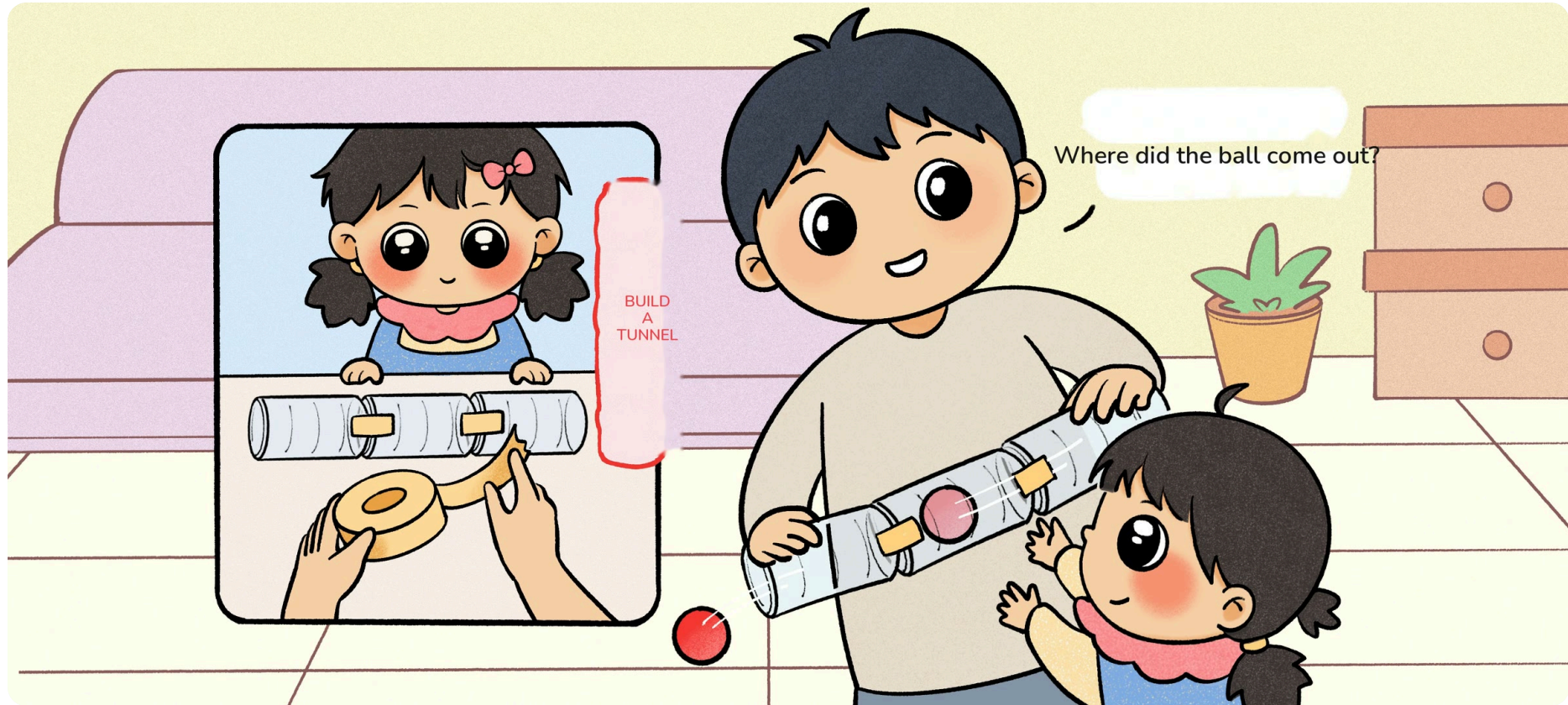
Place a ball in one bottle tube and slowly change the tube's angle. Let your child watch the ball roll in different directions and notice that it follows the tube. Once the movement is familiar, invite them to catch the ball as it drops.

Observations

- Tracks the rolling ball with their eyes
- Looks at you happily after catching the ball

Tips

- Ask your child to retrieve the ball. Following it across the floor involves judging its position, direction, and distance.
- Pair the motion with position words: "It goes in at the top and comes out at the bottom."



Three Tubes, a Longer Track

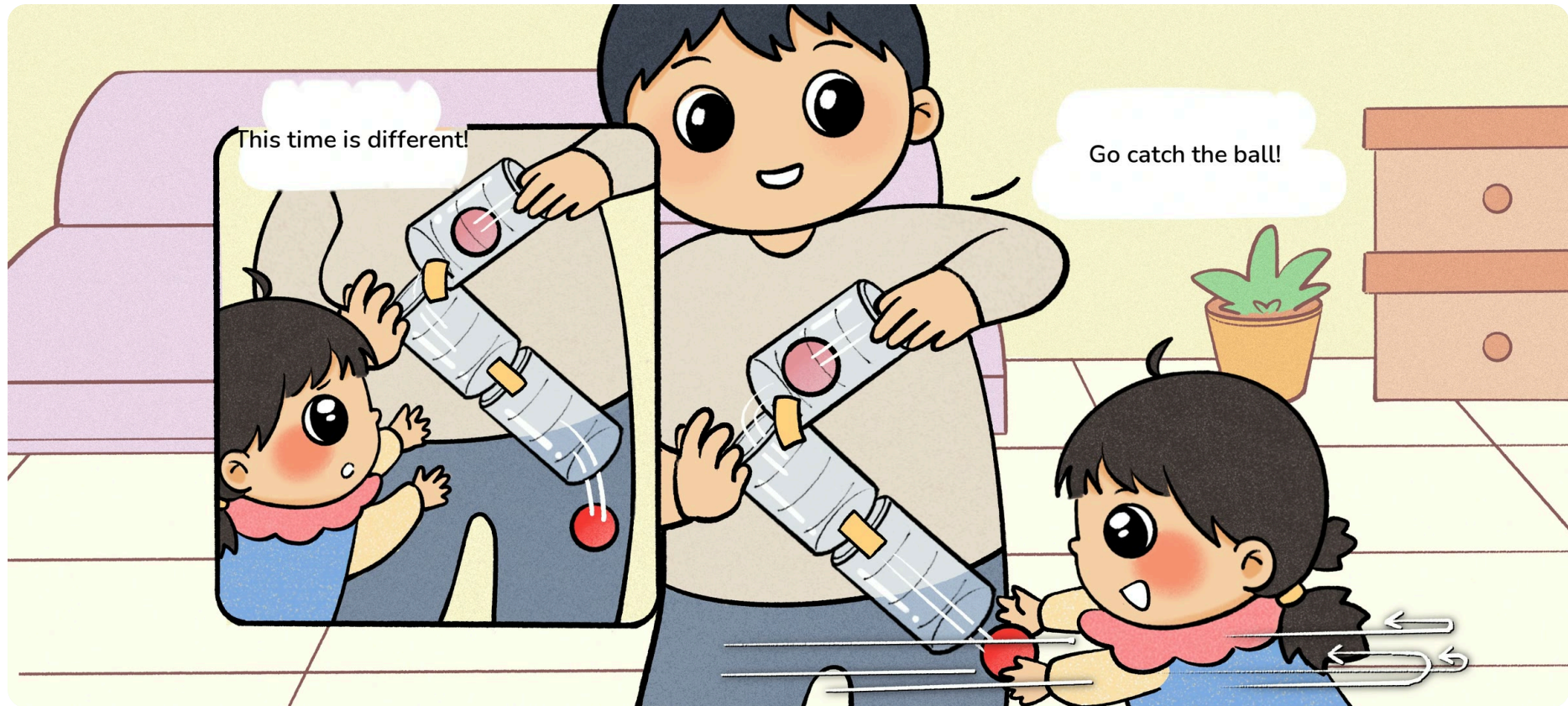
Connect all three tubes. Begin with a shallow slope so your child can follow the ball. After several turns, ask where it will come out and invite them to move toward the exit before it drops.

Observations

- Moves toward the tube's exit before the ball emerges
- Helps press tape onto the connected tubes

Tips

- Show how the tape connects two tubes. Hold the tubes while your child presses a prepared strip of tape onto the joint.
- Switch roles. Let your child hold and tilt the track while you move to catch the ball.
- When your child reliably reaches the exit before the ball, make the slope slightly steeper so the ball travels faster.



Change the Route

Reconnect the tubes in a different arrangement and play again. If your child moves to the old exit, invite another look at the ball's new route. Celebrate when they notice the change and reach the new exit.

Observations

- Changes position after noticing the ball's new path
- Catches the ball before it reaches the floor

Tips

- While the ball is moving, turn the track in a new direction to create an extra reaction challenge.