



## The Secret of Balloons

Try several ways to play with balloons - kick one, use static electricity to attract light objects, and release its air - then notice what happens each time.

### Helps Your Child Grow



#### Exploration and Discovery

Rubbing and releasing a balloon lets your child observe how static electricity and moving air can produce visible effects.



#### Gross Motor

Kicking, batting, and heading a slowly falling balloon gives your child practice coordinating whole-body movements.



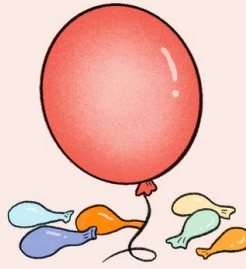
## What You'll Need



String



Tape



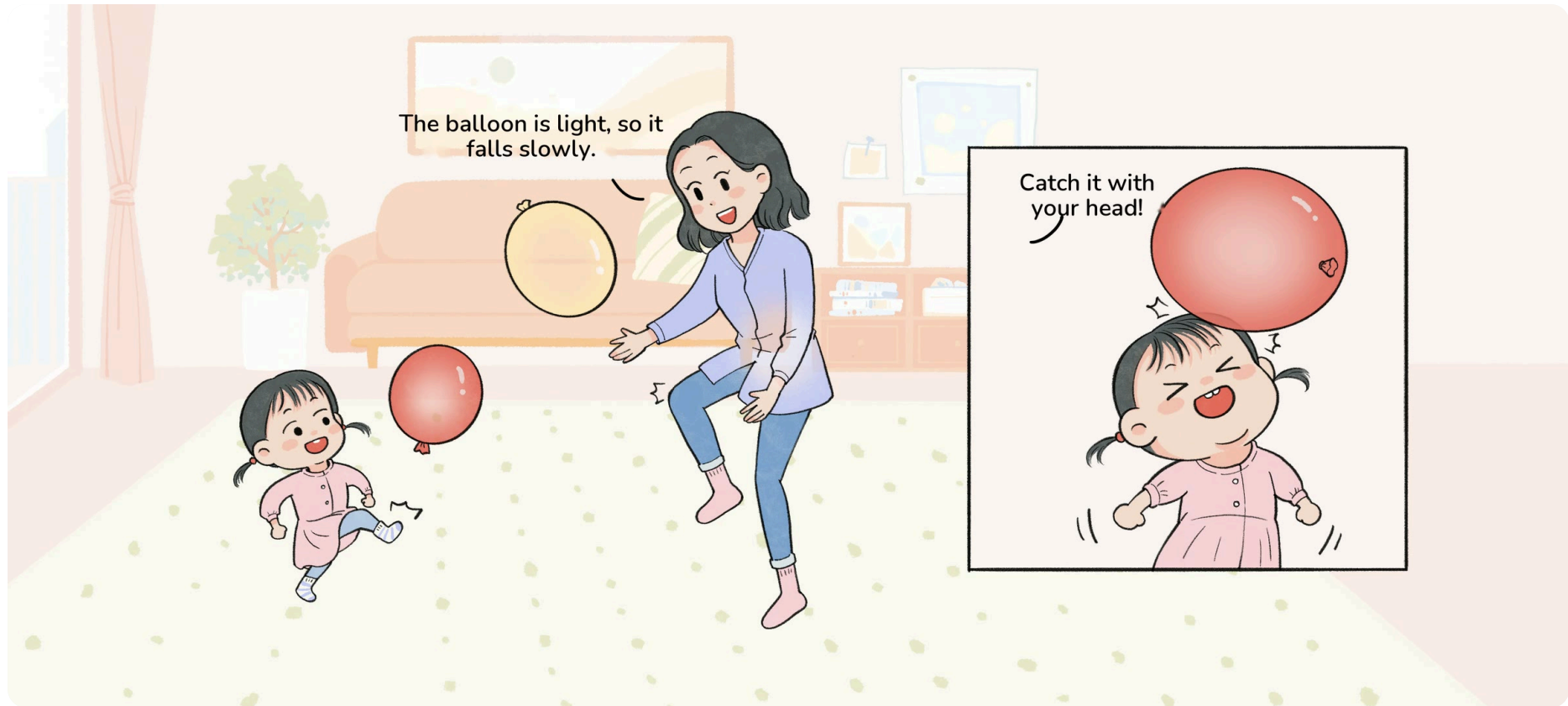
Balloon



Empty can and straw

## What You'll Need

1. Several balloons
2. string
3. straws
4. empty cans
5. tape



## Kick the Balloon for Fun

An inflated balloon is large, light, and slow to fall. Give your child time to watch its path and move into place before it lands. They can kick it, bat it with their hands, or try tapping it with their head.

### Observations

- Balances on one foot while kicking the balloon with the other
- Watches the balloon's path and gets ready to catch it before it lands

### Tips

- Try more variations: bat the balloon toward the floor and watch it rise slowly, or see who can send it higher.
- A balloon falls more slowly and feels softer than a ball, making its path easier to watch while your child practices running, stopping, catching, kicking, and heading.



## Static Balloon Fun

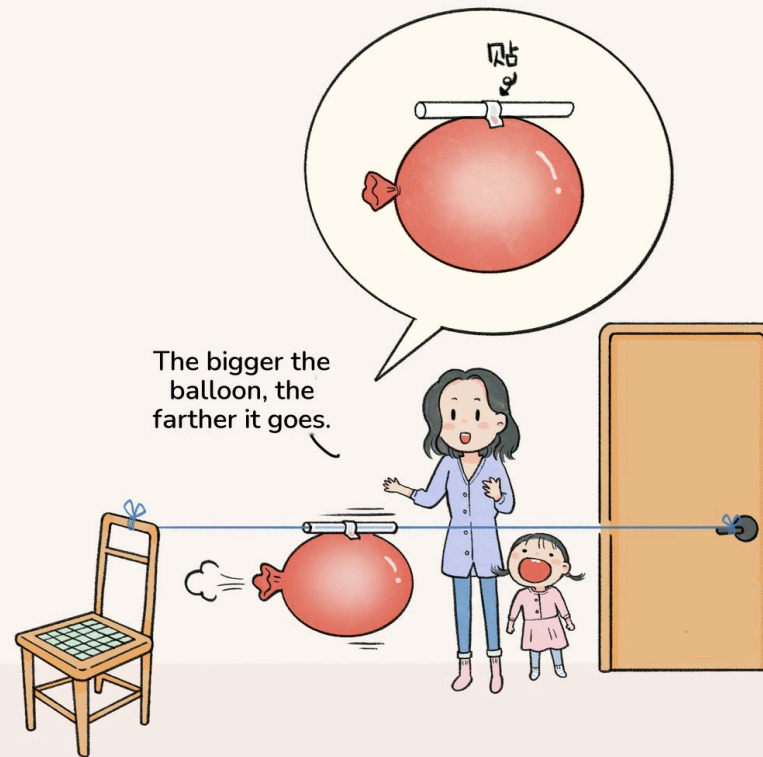
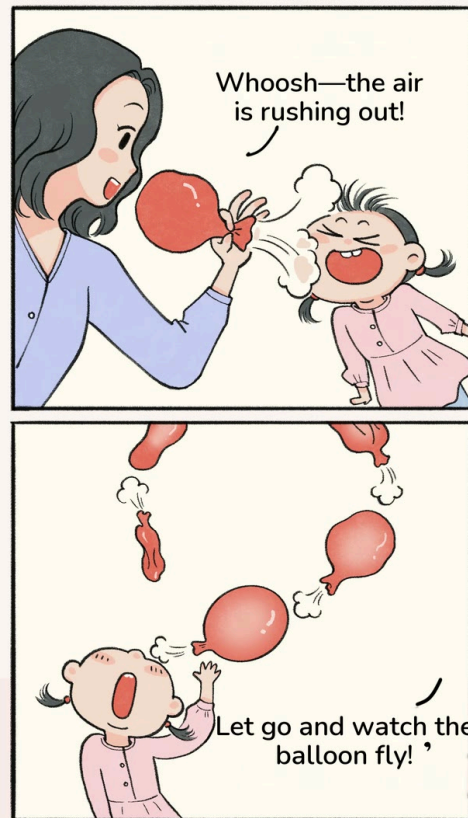
Rub an inflated balloon on your hair, then hold it nearby and watch strands lift toward it. Invite your child to try attracting paper scraps, rolling an empty can, or moving another very light object with the balloon.

### Observations

- Rubs the balloon on their hair before using it to attract or move a light object
- Points excitedly after the paper scraps lift or the metal can rolls

### Tips

- If your child skips the rubbing step, remind them to rub the balloon on their hair first, then try the object again and compare the result.
- Your child does not need a full explanation of static electricity. You can simply say, “Rubbing the balloon on your hair gives it static electricity.”



## Launch the Balloon

Inflating and releasing a balloon creates a stream of moving air. Let your child feel the air on a hand or arm, then let them release the balloon. For another experiment, attach the inflated balloon to a straw threaded on a taut string, release it, and watch it travel along the line.

### Observations

- Releases the balloon opening and watches the balloon fly away
- Shows interest when the air from the balloon blows against them

### Tips

- If your child does not like air on their face, aim it toward a hand or arm and let them watch and feel what happens as the balloon deflates.
- Before releasing the balloon, ask which way it will travel. After a few turns, attach it facing another direction and compare the launch path.