

STEM ACTIVITY

Love Your Enemies

Total Time: 20 minutes
In Class Time: 15 minutes

You will need:

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- Craft sticks (or popsicle sticks)
- Rubber bands
- Tape (masking tape is best)
- Plastic spoons
- Craft “pom poms” (fuzz balls)
- Paper



STEP 1: Distribute the supplies by setting them in a central location. With larger groups, divide them up for easier access.

STEP 2: Gather the children. TEACH: Chris scored goals on his soccer team. Let's see if we can make some of our own...but I mean literally make them.

STEP 3: Explain that the goal is to use the provided materials to create a machine that will shoot a pom pom into a tabletop soccer goal—which they will also create. The design is up to them.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Remember: the craft sticks, rubber bands, and spoon are all flexible and springy. Any of these may provide the potential energy needed to shoot the pom pom.
- You may want to use a sheet of paper as a base for your shooter and/or your goal.
- If the children seem stumped, suggest a catapult. A good starting point is to fix something under the middle of the spoon handle and use the spoon's flexibility to provide the spring needed for launching. Then, elaborate on the design and see where it goes. Can they make it swing sideways like a baseball bat? Have fun!