

Rock-it Science Observations For Winter Lessons 2010

Helium Balloons

Students put scraps of paper in a bag taped to their balloon to make it hover and then they tried to make the balloon follow them as they walked across the room.

They may have discovered:

- Bigger balloons need more paper to hover.
- It takes careful work to make the balloon hover.
- Even then, the balloon will always start to move because of air currents.
- After some time, more paper needs to be removed to keep it hovering.
- Moving slowly, the balloon doesn't follow.
- Moving fast, it does follow.
- Rubbing the balloon on your hair helps a lot!
- Sometimes balloons attract or repel each other.
- If you blow straight across the top of the balloon, it rises.
- Other people walking by will often make your balloon stop following.