# Making a Toy Parachute

Heather Hammonds
Photographs by Lindsay Edwards



PM

For teachers' inspection ONLY

## Making a Toy Parachute

**Level** 18
**Running Words** 468 **Text Type** Procedure (Informative)
**Curriculum Area** Science

### Retelling to encourage critical thinking about the content

Ask each student to retell the steps in the correct order in his or her own words.
Record the retelling for further discussion and reflection.

### Questions to reinforce meaning and stimulate discussion

Literal

How did the child make the canopy for the parachute?
Why did the child put tape on the canopy?
What were the strings for?
Why was the playground a good place for the experiment?

Inferential

Why do the toys have to be the same shape and size for the experiment?
What makes a parachute slow down as it falls to the ground?
Why does a parachute need to be dropped from a high place?
Why does a parachute fall faster when it is dropped from a lower place?

### Links with other PM Guided Reading Books and Cards

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Level 18 | Card | Recount | *Our Air Show* |
| Level 17 | Book | Procedure | *Making a Mobile* |
| Level 18 | Book | Procedural Recount | *My Musical Instrument* |

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# Goal

To make a small toy **parachute** and find out how it works

## You will need:

- a sheet of thin plastic
- a wooden hoop
- a marker pen
- a pair of scissors
- sticky tape
- a ball of string
- a ruler
- 2 small toys



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# How to Make a Toy Parachute

1. Put the sheet of plastic onto a table. Then, put the wooden hoop on top of it.



2. Draw a circle with the pen around the inside of the hoop.



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**3.** Lift the hoop off the sheet of plastic.



**4.** Cut carefully around the circle on the plastic. The circle will be the parachute **canopy**.



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**5.** Make four little marks with the pen around the outside of the circle. The holes for the parachute strings will go there.



**6.** Put some tape on top of the marks. It will help make the holes stronger.



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7. Make a hole on each mark with the scissors. (Ask an adult to help you.)

8. Cut four long strings from the ball. Each one needs to be 30 cm long.



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**9.** Push the strings into the four holes.
Tie a knot at the end of each string.
The strings will be the parachute **lines**.



**10.** Tie the four strings together in a big knot at the bottom of the parachute.

