

# Ramp and Roll



Thank you for your interest in this **Play and Learn** Ready to Learn backpack. The education team at Iowa PBS is excited that you have chosen to enrich your child's learning.

## Contents

**2 Books:** *Oscar and the Cricket: A Book About Moving and Rolling* by Geoff Waring  
*Newton and Me* by Lynne Mayer

**Activity:** Fetch Thrill Ride

**Materials:** measuring tape, ramps, spheres of different sizes and materials

**Reusable Items:** Feel free to use and replace: Foil, sandpaper, vinyl, cardboard

## Read Together

Asking your child questions as you read helps them think about the story and encourages them to ask their own questions. Here are some sample questions to ask your child as you read *Oscar and the Cricket: A Book About Moving and Rolling* by Geoff Waring. This is a book about Oscar, a cat, who finds a ball and doesn't know what to do with it.

- What would you do if you found a ball?
- Ask your child to describe Oscar, the setting, and the different things Oscar is doing.
- Explain that one thing scientists do is make predictions. Can you predict what will happen when the ball rolls through mud? Investigate the answer.
- Oscar did a lot of exploring and investigating with the ball and the different ways that he could make it move and roll. He is acting like a scientist! Scientists explore and test their ideas and predictions so they can learn more about how the world works. What predictions can you test using a ball?

## Play Together

Playing with your child can be fun for them and for you, and asking questions will help your child learn.

- Create slides and ramps using different materials such as cardboard, wood or plastic. Start with each one at the same height and length. Change one thing and test again. Explore how different objects' shapes affect how they roll or slide down a ramp. How is this like the slide at the park?
- The surface challenge explores the effect of different surfaces and textures on rolling objects. Test how the material influences the movement of a ball.
- Create a ramp that allows an object to go the fastest and farthest. Race. Now change the ramp and race again.
- Try to knock down objects at the end of the ramp. How does the height and slope of the ramp and the object traveling down the ramp affect how many items are knocked down? Use dominoes, markers, or toilet paper rolls as targets.

## Online Activities

Go to [iowapbs.org/education/story/36383/science-resources-and-activities-ages-4-8](http://iowapbs.org/education/story/36383/science-resources-and-activities-ages-4-8) to watch **Sesame Street: Tube Ramp**, **Curious George: Ramp n' Roll** and **PEEP and the Big World: The Watchamacallit**. Also check out the PBS Parents Play and Learn Science App for more rolling fun.

Find more information about Iowa PBS Education at [iowapbs.org/education](http://iowapbs.org/education). More PBS educational content can be found at [pbskids.org](http://pbskids.org).