

Hanger Balancing Scale

What to do:

1. Cut two pieces of string, rope or ribbon so they are the same size or use two shoelaces.
2. Make holes to attach the string to the cups just below the cup top (one on each side of the cup) You may also use tape to attach the string to each side of the cup.
3. Tie the string to each side of the cup by tying a knot in each end inside the cup. The string should support the cup like the handle of a bucket.
4. Repeat this process with the second cup.
5. Attach the hanger to a doorknob or a towel bar.
6. Attach the cups to each side of the hanger letting them sit in the notch of the hanger.
7. Steady the hanger to make sure the cups are hanging at the same level. If they are not; adjust the string until they are even. If you have tape, when they look even use a piece of tape to secure the string in the hanger's notches.
8. Show your child how the scale works by putting a penny in each cup and then adding another coin to one of the cups. The scale will tip toward the cup with multiple coins in it. Encourage them to other household items like beans or smaller toys and explore the scale.
9. Once they get the hang of it, you can help them to compare the weight of different items.

Ask your child questions like:

Which item do you think will be heavier? Which item is the lightest? How did you figure that out? Can you think of a way to make this side heavier?



Materials:

- Two identical paper or plastic cups
- Two pieces of string, rope, ribbon or two shoelaces that are the same size.
- Plastic hanger
- Coins such as pennies or dimes or small objects that fit into the cups like bottle caps, beans, marbles or small toys



Why is this activity important? This activity is great for learning about science and math. Scales allow an opportunity for children to compare, predict, count, and measure.