

Wrestling Toy

A toy-building learning activity from Mister Toymaker, Rick Hartman



This toy costs pennies per student and is a great activity to do either as a stand-alone mini-lesson or a unit extension.

Materials:

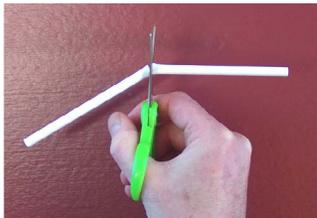
- 1 drinking straw (paper best) per student
- 1 #8 Rubber Band per student
- Something to color with
- Scissors

Time:

15–20 minutes

Directions:

First, play the short Wrestling Toy introductory video that is posted at www.schooloftoy.com/ondemand-power-of-toymaking. Then, walk students through the instructions below to make the toy.



1. Cut the straw in half.



2. Decorate each half differently.



3. Slide the #8 rubber band over the straws.



4. Hold 1 straw while winding the other.



5. Throw it on the table.



6. The winner lands on top!

Learning Connections:

Science:

- Energy: Stored (Potential) vs. Motion (Kinetic)
- Properties: Flexible vs. Rigid Materials, Elastic vs. Inelastic

Math:

- Estimating vs. Measuring
- Data Collection: Create a table or chart to keep track of how many times each straw wins.
- Probability: How is this game similar to or different from flipping a coin?

Social Skills:

- Take one of your straws and have it “challenge” someone else’s straw.
- Take turns winding and testing your combined toy.

Creativity/Invention:

- What accessories or extra features could you add to your wrestlers?
- What materials would you need to make these extra features?
- Let’s use recycled materials to make our toy even better!

Writing Prompt

Write a story about one of your wrestlers. What is his or her name? How did he or she become a wrestler? Describe a funny thing that happened to your wrestler... the sillier the better!

Ready to Have More Toy-Building Adventures in Your Classroom?

Check out Mister Toymaker’s 90-minute on-demand workshops for K–6th Grade.

Explore Workshops



www.schooloftoy.com