

# Sizzling Rockets

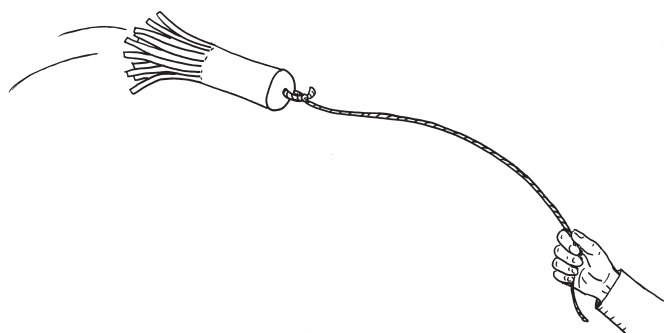
## Who

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Preschoolers and schoolagers

## About the Toy

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These rockets are a fun craft activity to make and use in connection with flight or rocket-themed units. Assemble the materials and assist the children as needed. Older preschoolers and schoolagers can make these toys as a craft activity related to learning about rockets or for experimenting with air, motion, and flight. Children can whirl them around in the air (inside or outside) and watch their rockets sparkle and flash and their tails sizzle as they whirl around.

Children can also launch their rockets by slipping them over a thin tube, dowel, or ruler and making a motion similar to an overhand throw. The rocket will fly off the launching device, traveling several yards before landing. It is best to launch the rockets outside or in a gym, where children can practice seeing how far their rockets will go.

## What They Learn

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Approaches to learning development skills: Craft activities for young children present many learn-

ing opportunities. For example, the various craft materials used in this activity encourage tactile experiences and creative exploration. By following a project through from beginning to end, children show self-direction, independence, and persistence in completing tasks. In addition, the more open-ended the craft project is, the more likely children are to apply their knowledge in new ways and use multiple strategies for solving problems.

## Extending the Learning

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These rocket toys can be used inside or outside and can help children learn about rockets, flight, air, and motion. While children construct their rockets, they can discuss the assembly process, including parts, shapes, and appearance. Playing with the rockets provides practice in running and throwing, two basic physical-activity skills children this age need to develop. Running with and flying the rockets helps develop coordinated body movements.

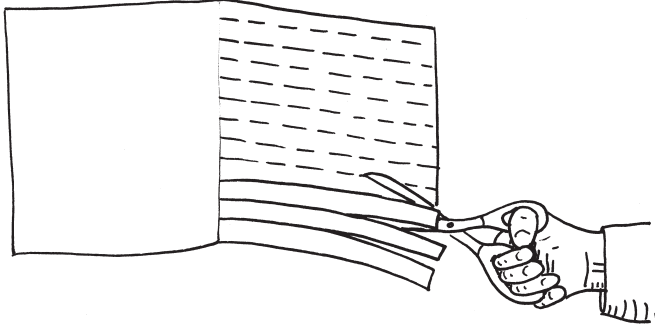
## What You Need

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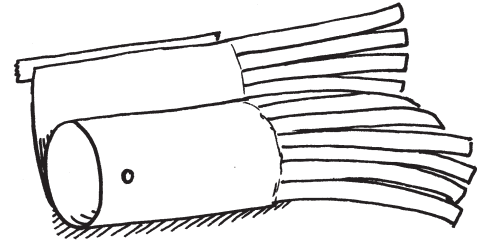
- toilet paper tubes
- shiny Mylar (6-by-10-inch pieces)
- scissors
- cellophane tape
- hole punch
- string (cut into 2- to 2½-foot pieces)
- thin cardboard tubes (such as from plastic wrap), dowels, round pillar type blocks, or rulers, to use as launchers

## How to Make It

1. Fold the Mylar in half lengthwise. Open and fringe half of it, making cuts about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch apart and 5 inches long (to the fold line).



2. Cover the toilet paper tubes with the Mylar so one end is flush with the end of the tube and the fringe extends beyond the other end. Secure with tape.



3. Punch a hole approximately 1 inch from the unfringed end of the tube. Loop the string through the hole and tie. (You may staple the string to the tube, but you should also tie a knot in the string to prevent it from slipping through the staples.)
4. Hold the end of the string and whirl the tube around, turning and twisting it for added motion and effect. Children can launch their rockets by slipping them over a thin tube, dowel, or ruler and making a motion similar to an overhand throw.

When the children have finished with the rockets, take them apart and reuse or recycle the parts. For example, save the Mylar and use it again for other activities.

