

# Make a Marble Run!

## What you'll need

- Clean recycled materials: Bottles, cardboard, cardboard tubes, containers, etc.
- Some kind of small balls (bouncy balls, marbles, etc.)
- Scrap paper (at least one blank side per page)
- Pencils with good erasers

## Introduction

In this activity, you and your child will use recycled materials to build a marble/ball run!

### What is a marble run?

If your child (and/or you) aren't familiar with marble runs, search images online for "cool marble run." You can also find plenty of videos on YouTube of really neat and complex marble runs.

## Do it!

Before they begin building, have your child blueprint their idea for a marble run. Ideally, you should also blueprint your own design and create a marble run. If you've done the Blueprinting activity, this drawing should be familiar to you. If not, follow the guidelines below:

A blueprint is simply a drawing that shows how something will be made.

The drawing should:

- Include a view of the marble run from several sides
- Show how big it might be with measurements
- Include labels to show what is what, and what materials are used

Once finished, build the marble runs!

**Note:** The marble runs do **not** have to follow the blueprint exactly!

**Tip:** Start with a simple marble run, and then build up as desired!

## Adaptations

### For Younger children

Skip the blueprinting part, and help your child.

### For An Extra Challenge

Set requirements for the finished marble run, e.g. "It must have a piece where the marble jumps across a gap."

## Vocabulary

**Blueprint:** A plan that shows exactly how to make an object. Might also be called a **design** or **design drawing**.

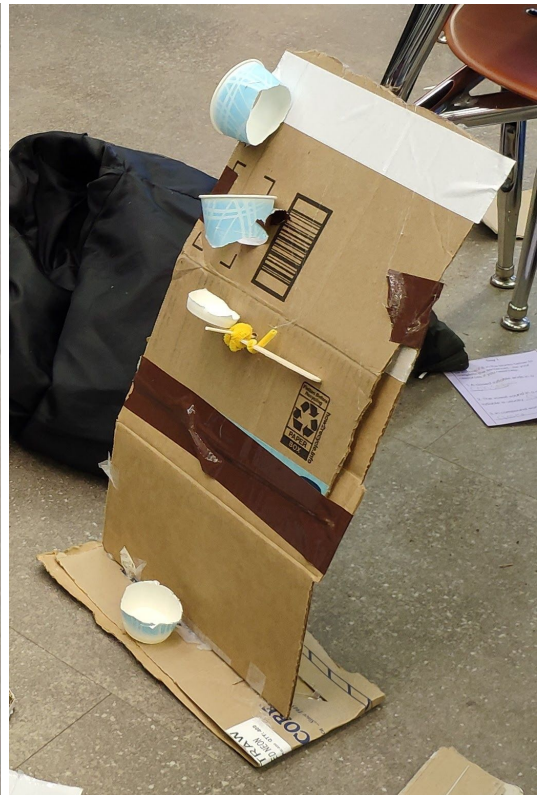
## Fun facts

### Musical Marble Machine:

This YouTube video demonstrates a pretty unique marble run, which makes music! You may have seen it before:

<https://youtu.be/lvUU8joBb1Q>

Simple marble run examples



Left image credit: Robert Hunt via Flickr