



TAKE IT HOME: CONFUSING CANS

This activity is designed to get children thinking about the connections between weights and ramps, and investigating these. Check out our video demonstration here:

bsa.sc/YouTube-CREST-Confusing-cans-demonstration

30 minutes

Skills unlocked: Curious, Observant



Kit list

A can of soup, baked beans and cat food for each group, labels removed and marked with different numbers/colours

A set of cans with labels for comparison

Boards/trays to make the ramp plus blocks/books to support it

Tape measures/other distance markers



Through this activity you will support children to:

- think about how to find out what is inside a can without opening it
- conduct an experiment
- record and present their results.

Instructions

- 1 Set up the equipment as shown in the [video demonstration](#).
- 2 Introduce the activity to the children including the 'think and talk about' questions. Explain that they will be exploring how to find out what is inside the cans without opening them.
- 3 Encourage children to discuss their ideas and how to carry out their investigations. How might they roll the cans? Support children to conduct their investigation and record their results. Let them explore the unlabelled cans first. Then roll the labelled cans to make a comparison.
- 4 Ask them to use their observations to predict the contents of each unlabelled can. Talk about the distance each can rolled and what is inside it. Can they see a pattern?
- 5 Ask the children to present their findings to the rest of the group, they can be as creative in their presentation as they want.

Think and talk about

Think about how to support the children to measure distance. You might use markers to show where each can rolled to, or cut pieces of string to show the length each can travelled. String lengths can then be compared side by side.

Watch out

- Remind children not to leave cans lying on the floor for people to trip over.
- Use a safety can opener. Keep sharp can edges away from little fingers, and push the can lid down inside used cans before disposing of safely after use. Opening cans and heating food should be done by adults. Check your organisation's policy.

Next steps

This activity is one of the CREST Star challenges. Why not try some of the other activities with your children? You can find out more and download all the resources you need here: crestawards.org/crest-star.

For more ideas on how to get started with the CREST Awards visit: crestawards.org.

At home

Children can fill containers (coffee tins or jars with lids) with different things e.g. sand (different amounts), syrup or cotton wool and see what happens.