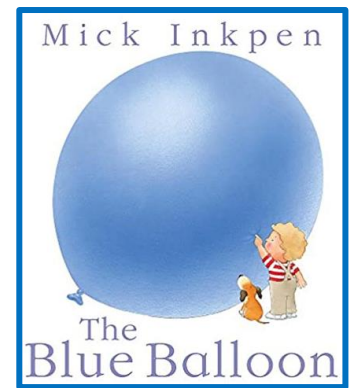


The Blue Balloon

By Mick Inkpen



- Ask lots of questions about balloons - What do you think the balloon is filled with? Why does it float in the air? What will happen if the string breaks? Where do you think a magic balloon might take teddy? What would teddy see from high in the sky? Where might he land? How could we fill another balloon with air? How could we stop the air getting out of the balloon? What would happen if we didn't fasten the balloon and just let it go?
- Let the children make maps of where the balloon might fly over.
- Fill balloons with coloured water and freeze them. Remove the balloon and let the children play outside with the frozen ice balls.
- Fill balloons with rice, sand, etc and make musical instruments with them or play catch.
- Make up songs about balloons -
To the tune of 'Ten Green Bottles':
Five big balloons floating through the air,
Five big balloons floating through the air,
If one big balloon should accidentally 'pop', POP! (clap hands)
There'll be four big balloons floating through the air
- Blow up a variety of balloons and sort them in size, colour, etc.
- Play balloon tennis in the living room (you could use swimming noodles as bats or just your hands)
- See who can keep a balloon up in the air the longest by patting it and not letting it touch the ground.
- Watch a balloon inflate before your eyes using vinegar and baking soda <https://www.kixcereal.com/kix-cereal-hot-air-balloon-bottle/>
- Paint with balloons
- Make a 'hover balloon' with a CD and a balloon <https://www.muminthemadhouse.com/balloon-hovercraft/>

