

Age: 7+ (parental help is needed for the glue gun)

# H is for... Hovercraft

**What is a hovercraft?** A hovercraft works by forcing air out beneath it. This creates air that allows the hovercraft to float. The activity you will be creating will use a CD to surround the base to contain the air. You will also be using a balloon as it acts as a pressurized gas chamber.



**Activity:** Create a balloon hovercraft

**Materials needed:**

- CD
- One pop-top cap from a water bottle or dish soap bottle
- One balloon
- Hot glue gun

**Instructions:**

1. Use a hot glue gun to glue the bottle cap over the center hole of the CD and let it dry. \* use caution with the glue gun, it can be very hot.
2. Push the cap closed. Blow up the balloon, then hold it so that no air escapes. Stretch the mouth of the balloon over the bottle cap. Adjust the balloon so that it stands up straight.
3. Set the hovercraft on a hard, smooth table and open the pop-top; then nudge it and see what happens.

**Job Exploration:**

**Pilot:** A pilot is a person licensed to fly a plane or spacecraft or operate a ship.

**Astronaut:** An astronaut is a type of scientist that takes a spaceship to outer space to study things like asteroids, the atmosphere and the moon. To become an astronaut, you should have interests in physics, chemistry, geology, and biology.

**Design Engineer:** Is a type of engineer that is focused on the design process of an engineering product and/or discipline. Design engineers usually work on products and systems that involve adapting and using complex scientific and mathematical techniques

**Mechanical Engineer:** An engineer designs and builds complex products, machines, and system. A mechanical engineer works with how things are made and how machines operate. They also design and builds complex products, machines, and systems. Mechanical engineers also help with the invention of many machines, including the early inventions of simple machines like the wheel and axle.

**Aerospace Engineer:** Aerospace engineers design aircraft, spacecraft, satellites, and missiles. In addition, they create and test prototypes to make sure that they function according to design.

To learn more about this craft visit:

**<https://learning-center.homesciencetools.com/article/balloon-hovercraft-scienc>**