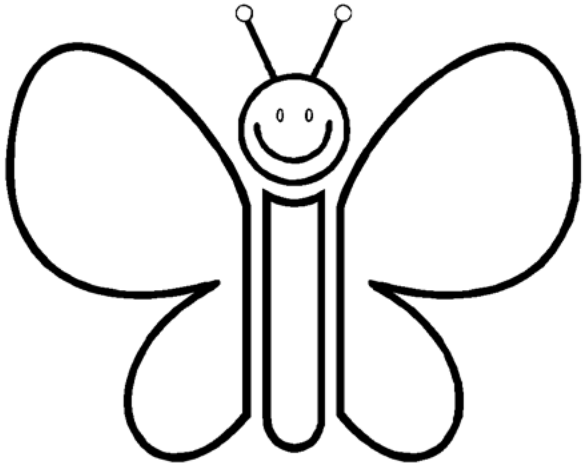
Static Electricity Butterfly – Classroom Activity

Demonstrate the effects of static electricity.

What you will need:

Card board squares (20cm x 20cm), Tissue paper, Coloured paper or card, Pencil, Scissors, Balloon, Glue stick, Googly eyes (optional)



Directions:

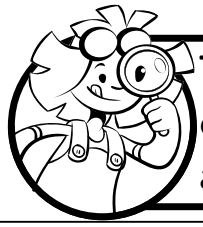
- Draw butterfly wings on the tissue paper
- Cut them out and sit them on the cardboard - the wings need to be loose so don't glue them down.
- Cut a butterfly body out of the coloured paper or card, and glue down the middle overlapping it on the cardboard.
- Glue the googly eyes onto the butterfly – or draw eyes on
- Blow up the balloon and rub in your hair.
- Hold the balloon closely over the top of the butterfly being careful not to touch it.

Results:

- *What happens to the tissue paper wings when the balloon moves closer to the butterfly? What happens when the balloon moves farther away?*

When the balloon is rubbed in the hair, electrons are lost from the hair and picked up by the balloon giving it a static charge. When the negatively charged balloon gets close to the positively charged tissue paper they are attracted to each other, and the pull of attraction is so great that the lightweight tissue paper moves toward the balloon – making the butterfly's wings flap.

Bright Sparks
Staying safe around electricity



TIP: Static Electricity is when friction removes electrons from one object and deposits them on another

TasNetworks
Delivering your power