#NCSconnects Virtual Activity

**Activity:** Straw Rollercoaster

**Category:** STEAM

**Suggested Grade Level:** Grades 2 and up

**Description:** This STEAM challenge for kids is awesome because the materials are so simple and inexpensive! The track is surprisingly sturdy, and kids will have a blast creating a path for their ball.

**Supplies:**
- A cardboard box or piece of cardboard for the base
- Straws – solid color ones are fun!
- Scissors
- Glue stick or duct tape
- A small ball
- A bowl to catch the ball at the bottom (optional)

**Instructions:**
1. Start by drawing a design for your rollercoaster.
2. Once you have a nice draft, start building! Make your drawing come to life. Cut straws in half to make a track or use two straws next to one another. Then use glue or tape to connect track pieces together and attach to the cardboard base.
3. Test out your rollercoaster!
4. Once you test your rollercoaster, did you see there was something you wanted to add, take away or modify?

**Takeaways:** Practice your fine motor skills to make a cool craft that reminds you of summertime! You’ll see how inertia works and how gravity is the force that makes the ball move. **Inertia** is the resistance of any physical object to any change in its state of motion; this includes changes to its speed, direction, or state of rest. It is the tendency of objects to keep moving in a straight line at constant velocity.