Make A Pinwheel

Easy to make foam pinwheel that really spins in the wind

Materials

- 5x5 piece of craft foam or cardstock and scraps to cut out small bearings
- pipe cleaner (1/2 of one)
- unsharpened pencil or paper straw
- pony beads (if pipe cleaner isn't strong enough to hold the pinwheel) not included

Tools

- Stapler or glue dots
- Hole punch
- Scissors
- Ruler

Preparations

- Cut out a 5-inch by 5-inch square from the craft foam or paper.
- Fold diagonally corner-to-corner in so that you have an "x" formed by the folded creases.
- Find your center (the spot where the two creases intersect), and punch a hole.
- Next, cut the creases until you have about an inch left on the crease near the center hole. These are the fins of the pinwheel.
- Once you've cut the fins, punch a hole through the (almost) tips of every other one. If you get too close to the tip of the fin, it won't stay attached or your foam will tear.
- Cut out two 1-inch circles from a scrap of foam or paper and punch a hole in their centers. This will act as a bearing to help your pinwheel spin.

Assemble the Pinwheel

1. Fold each fin to the center point, line up the circles and staple or use glue dots. Make sure the holes are lined up so it will spin.
2. Now that you have your pieces, take the 1/2 of a pipe cleaner and the pencil or straw. You want to make a "ball" on one end by tightly wrapping the pipe cleaner a few times around the pencil/straw. Slip it off the once you've wrapped it around 3 times.
3. Thread the pipe cleaner into one of the small circles then front of the fins (the part with the fronts of the staples). Then, thread the other circle on the end of the pipe cleaner behind the fins.
4. The order should be pipe cleaner (ball end), circle, fins, circle, and end of pipe cleaner. Once you have that, take your pencil/straw and wrap the pipe cleaner around it until there is about an inch (or so) left between the fins and the pencil/straw. And you're done with your pinwheel that really spins!