Today in Mad Science we learned all about...

Science of Toys

- We learned that some of our favourite toys rely on scientific principles!
- We experimented with a number of different toys to determine how they work and what science was in action.
- We learned that moving toys harness potential energy and turn it into kinetic energy.
- Toys that spin are called gyroscopic and use something called precession to make them appear to defy gravity.
- Other toys use gravity and balance to make them fun.
- Even toys from when our grandparents were young can be fun, and they don't need batteries
- We got a new toy so we could continue exploring science at home!

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Mad Science LET'S TRY THIS AT HOME!

Design Your Own Spinning Top

You Need: Sharpened pencil, an unwanted CD, scissors, thin cardboard, pennies, tape, rubber bands

1. Trace the edge of the CD to make a circle on thin cardboard.
2. Cut it out.
3. Poke a pencil through the middle of the cardboard circle. Hold it in place by tightly winding rubber bands around the pencil above and below the cardboard.
4. Give it a spin!
5. Try improving your top's spin by taping six pennies to the rim of the cardboard circle at regular intervals.

Explanation: Tops are old toys that remain favorites for kids young and old. Toy designers constantly try to improve and change classic toy designs. Try to improve upon this design by giving your top a longer handle or try taping the pennies close to the center.