

# Air Pressure



<b>EQUIPMENT</b>	Plastic bottle, Ruler, Large sheet of paper (e.g. newspaper), Table
<b>PREPARATION</b>	Gather materials
<b>BACKGROUND INFORMATION</b>	<p>The space around us is not empty but is filled with air, which is pushing on everything around us. This is called air pressure.</p> <p>When tyres are pumped up, air is squashed inside. This makes lots of pressure. So the tyres can support a truck which is carrying a heavy load.</p>
<b>SKILLS</b>	Experimenting
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<p>To show that air is pressing on everything:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Squeeze air out of a plastic bottle. Let go and see what happens. <i>(The bottle regains its shape because air pressure forces air back into the bottle).</i> Now put the lid on before you let go and see what happens. <i>(No air can get in so the bottle stays squeezed.)</i></li> <li>2) Put a ruler on the desk/table with a bit sticking over the edge. Spread out some newspaper over it and smooth it down so that it is flat. Now try to lift the paper by hitting the wood. <i>(When you hit the wood the air pressing down on the newspaper makes it difficult to lift the paper).</i></li> </ol>
<b>SAFETY</b>	Care – ruler could break.

