



and  
Hudson Hot Air Affair  
present

**Bringing Fun to 2021!**

A Virtual Family Day Activity!

What's more fun than a crazy hat? And what's more fun than a  
hot air balloon crazy hat?  
*Nothing!*



Follow these directions to create your own  
Hot Air Affair crazy hat!

## **Step 1:** Gather the following items from around your house

- Cardboard box or flat cardboard bigger than your head for the basket of the balloon.
- Plastic bag, grocery, Target or other store bag...turn inside out for the balloon
- Tape: duct tape, colored or traditional or masking tape or painter's tape
- Two wire coat hangers or any heavy-ish, sturdy wire
- Packaging peanuts or previously read newspaper or un-reusable tissue paper for stuffing
- Ribbon or previously used ribbons or string or twine
- Scissors
- Plastic or cardboard cylinder 2-3" in diameter by 2" deep  
(Concentrate orange juice container or small yogurt cup, or make your own from a strip of cardboard.)
- Markers (optional)
- Colored paper (optional)

## **Step 2:** Creating the Basket

**\*Fun Fact:** Suspended under the balloon is the gondola or wicker basket. Baskets are commonly made of woven wicker or rattan. These materials have proven to be sufficiently light, strong, and durable for balloon flight. Such baskets are usually rectangular or triangular in shape. They vary in size from just big enough for two people to large enough to carry thirty.

If you have recently installed a new toilet and have a piece of cardboard with a hole already in it, use that. If not, use a box bigger than your head and cut a hole in the bottom that your head will fit into. You may want to cut the sides down and be sure to leave the top open.



Using duct tape, masking tape, painter's tape, colored paper, paper grocery bags or markers, (with glue, staples or by coloring) create the look and/or texture of a woven basket.



### **Step 3: Creating the Balloon-Envelope**

**\*Fun fact:** A hot air balloon is a lighter-than-air aircraft consisting of a bag, called an envelope, which contains heated air. In modern sport balloons the envelope is generally made from [nylon](#) fabric and the inlet of the balloon (closest to the burner flame) is made from a fire resistant material such as Nomex.

Take your plastic bag and turn it inside out. That way you have a plain bag in which to design your balloon or “envelope”. Using markers or colored tape, make your balloon your own fancy balloon. Stuff the bag with packing peanuts, newspaper, tissue paper or whatever you have available. Using a twist tie or tape close the end leaving about 4”-5” of extra bag.

### **Step 4: Creating the Inlet**

**\*Fun fact:** The inlet is where the flames from the propane tanks shoot up into the balloon to heat the air inside to fill the balloon and raise the balloon and basket off the ground.

Set the 2” piece of your concentrated Orange juice can or yogurt container, with open end away from the balloon onto your stuffed bag and bring the extra plastic over the outside of the container and tape inside the opening.



Continue taping around the outside and inside of the container until it looks how you want it to look.



### **Step 5:** Attaching the balloon to the basket

Take the two wire coat hangers, stretch them open by pulling on the middle of the straight bottom of the hanger.



Next, manipulate them into a more circular shape to fit over your balloon.



My balloon was oblong so I used one hanger on each end of my balloon. If your balloon is more round, you can put the wire around one direction and the second

one the opposite direction. If you are not using wire hangers but just wire, you can simply wrap the wire around the balloon, making sure to leave about 6" so the balloon can be attached above the basket.



Holding the balloon over the basket, aligning it over the hole for your head, attach the wires to the basket using more tape.



(I covered the wires with duct tape What else could you do?)

**Step 6:** Creating the Flames:

Using colored paper, coloring your own paper, or using recycled comics or magazines, rip, tear or cut flames for inside your basket. Tape the flames to the inside of your basket, aligning them with the "inlet" of your balloon.



**Step 7:** Final ropes and decorations

If your wires seem to be sliding off your balloon or moving, you can use more tape to secure them to your balloon. Now, using your ribbon, string or twine, tie the wires together at the top



and bring them down to your basket. Carefully punch holes into the basket and tie the strings to the basket.



Continue to use your artistry to embellish your crazy balloon hat to your satisfaction.

**Final Step:** Photograph and upload



We want to see and exhibit your creation! Please photograph yourself in your Phipps Hot Air Balloon hat and email to the Phipps for their website... [ashartin@thephipps.org](mailto:ashartin@thephipps.org) or upload to Facebook and tag Hudson Hot Air Affair and The Phipps so we can share your creativity.

Thank you for participating in The Phipps Virtual Family Day Activity!

Find more fun things you can do to celebrate the 2021 Hot Air Affair at [HudsonHotAirAffair.com](http://HudsonHotAirAffair.com).

\*Fun Facts found on Wikipedia