Through exploring different designs, we found out that for a parachute to fall safely it needs to:

- *Fall at a slow speed.*
- *Land softly on the ground.*

Our next task was to find the best way of ensuring our parachutes met this criteria. To do this we had to test different materials for the parachute. We worked in pairs to test different ways of doing this. We used tape to attach the string to the plastic tub and to attach the string to our material for the parachute. We used three materials: fabric, paper, and a plastic bag. We then tested these prototypes by dropping them from the same height and observing how they fell to the ground. We then described how each prototype fell by rating it as a slow, intermediate or a fast speed.



Fabric

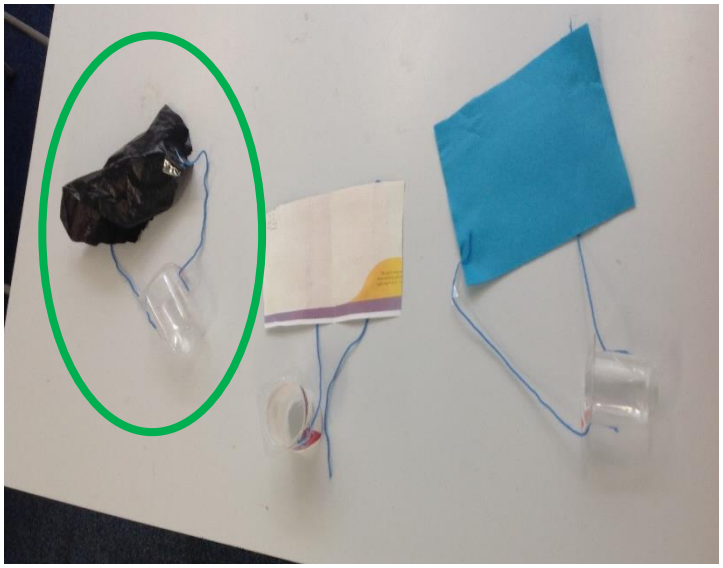
Paper





Plastic Bag

Our findings:
"The fabric parachute fell really fast."
"The paper parachute fell slower than the fabric parachute and fell at an intermediate speed."
"The plastic bag parachute fell slower than the others."
"If I was using a parachute, I would want it to fall slowly so that it landed safely. I wouldn't want to bang on the ground."



"The plastic bag was the best material to use because it fell slowly and safely. This means it would land softly on the ground."