Aluminum Foil and Pipe Cleaner Challenge

This challenge gave the kids a lot of challenges but also a lot of freedom. At the beginning of the project I asked them to get with a partner and wait patiently while I handed out the supplies. I gave each group 20 pipe cleaners and 5 sheets of aluminum foil. Their task and only directions I gave them… was to create ANYTHING they wanted. I told them to be creative but create whatever their hearts desired. It was fun to see their eyes light up and listen to them brainstorm of the different things they could create with their limited supplies. I gave them 15 minutes to work and create their projects. Once that time was up I had them write down on paper what it was that they created with their supplies. They then stepped away from their projects and were able to walk around the classroom and look at what everyone else had created.

It was fun looking at the things they made because it definitely fit each group’s personality. They made things that they were interested in and were passionate about. They definitely used their creativity but worked through different problems that would arise because they didn't have a lot of supplies to choose from. My students were also really impressed and making comments about how cool the other groups projects were cool and wondering how they made the things they did.

When we were done I asked the students how it went and what they liked most about this project compared to others… because they were very excited about this compared to other days. The majority of the students said this was their FAVORITE challenge we have had. They said that it was more challenging because they only got to use pipe cleaners and aluminum foil, BUT that it was funner because they never thought they could make the things they did from just those two items. They also mentioned how they liked the fact that they could build whatever they wanted compared to how usually we have to build something that is “the tallest” or “the strongest”. They loved the fact that they could use their imaginations and creativity to create something they were interested in! They also asked if we could do more projects like this in the future! :)