Hard Plastic Wheel
Conservation of Angular Momentum – Activity 3

Estimated Time for Activity: ~5 minutes

Optional Objectives:
*The students will:*
- Gain insight into the concept of angular momentum and conservation thereof

Materials:
- Hard plastic wheel

Optional Vocabulary:
- Angular momentum
- Moment of inertia
- Angular velocity

Procedures:
- Start with the plastic wheel not spinning.
- Ask the students if you spun the wheel while it was held upright what would happen when you let it go and held it by only a string.
- Spin the wheel and demonstrate that it stays standing up.

Optional Post-Activity Question(s):
- What causes the hard plastic wheel to stay standing up?