

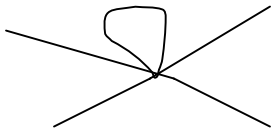
# Berkshiremuseum

## **Alexander Calder: An Artist at Play** *Activities to Do at School or at Home*

### **PreK - 2**

#### **Mobiles**

Introduce or review Alexander Calder's mobiles. To create the arms of your mobile, fold one pipe cleaner in half. About one inch from the folded end, twist both parts of the pipe cleaner around each other to create a loop.



Then spread out the two loose ends so that your pipe cleaner looks like the diagram on the left. Take a second pipe cleaner and twist it around the bottom of the loop a couple of times and spread the arms so that you now have four

arms that create an X. Bend the tips of each arm upwards. With grades 1 - 2, encourage students to add more pipe cleaners to make a more complex structure. Now you are ready to draw, color, cut out and hang any shapes you would like. Use wire Christmas tree hangers for an easy, no-tie way to add your shapes.

#### **Toys in Motion**

Ask students to bring in a toy from home. Ask each student to share their toy with the class. If it has moving parts, talk about how the toy moves and how the parts work together.

Introduce or review Alexander Calder and his push and pull toys. Now it is their turn to be the toy designers! Ask them to imagine a moving toy of their own and to draw a picture of it. They should give their toy a name and be able to explain what all of the parts are and how the toy moves.

#### **Calder Toy Picture Book**

Students create a picture book about the Alexander Calder toy exhibit to share with people in their families who may not have been able to come on the field trip. Book contents might include a drawing of the student's favorite toy, information about how it moves (i.e., You pull it and it wobbles around), what machines helped to make their toy move (levers, tilted wheels, regular wheels, etc.) and what students liked best about the exhibit.