



How Does a Battery Make a Motor Spin?

Vern, Flicker, and a circuit in motion

A SprigKids science story





Nothing is moving!

Flicker pressed the switch. Nothing happened. His little motor sat still. "Maybe it just needs to go faster," he said. Vern looked closely.



Vern's prediction.

"Maybe the circuit has a gap," Vern said. Flicker pointed at the battery, motor, switch, and wires. "Let's check every connection!"



One gap.

One connection was missing. The path was open, so the motor stayed still.



The motor spins!

They connected the last gap and closed the switch. The motor whirred, and its little fan began to turn.



A windy surprise!

Flicker leaned closer - whoosh! The tiny fan moved air. Vern's fluff lifted at the edges.



Vern revises his idea.

"The battery sends electric current around the complete circuit," Vern said. "Inside the motor, electricity and magnets work together to turn the axle."



Flicker's motion map.

Flicker traced the journey with one careful finger: battery, wires, motor, turning axle. "Electricity in, motion out!" he cheered.



Try it safely.

With a grown-up, use a battery-powered hobby motor and its matching battery pack. Connect insulated leads and a switch. Watch the axle turn. Keep fingers, hair, and loose clothing away from moving parts. Never use a wall outlet.

Grown-up note: Use only the matching low-voltage battery pack, and stop before touching or adjusting any moving part.



Remember the motor's journey.

A battery stores energy.

Insulated wires make a complete path.

A closed switch lets current flow.

Electricity and magnets make the motor's axle turn.

The motor changes electrical energy into motion.