



Look closely at the photo. Note the two ping pong balls. What do you notice about them? Propose a hypothesis for their positions, with some explanation.



Solution:

The photo was taken at the DuPage Children's Museum. If a visitor pushes a button on the white base, air flows up through the white tubes—think of air coming out of a hair dryer. This fast moving air holds the balls up. Stop the air flow and the balls fall.

This concept is referred to as Bernoulli's principle: as air moves around an object, it creates different pressures on that object.

Try it!

- As in the explanation on the previous slide, get a hand-held hair dryer and some ping pong, or other small balls. Turn on the hair dryer and balance the balls in the air!
- Try different sized balls or other objects.
- Change the speed on the hair dryer.