How to Build a Helicopter

I am really good at following instructions, I have special instructions that tell me what to do all of the time! These special instructions are called a “code”! Are you good at following instructions?

Follow the instructions below to build your own helicopter. The materials you will need are: a piece of paper, scissors, a ruler, markers or pencil crayons and a paper clip.

**STEP 1**
Measure a rectangle on your paper that is 6cm wide and 20cm long. Cut it out.

**STEP 2**
Measure the halfway point of the short side of your rectangle (3 cm) and draw a line 10cm long. Cut on that line.

**STEP 3**
Measure the 8cm from the bottom of your rectangle and draw a line that is 2cm long. Do this on both sides. Cut on those lines.
STEP 4  Fold the top flaps in opposite directions.

STEP 5  Fold the bottom flaps towards the middle

STEP 6  Decorate your helicopter with markers or pencils crayons.

STEP 7  Attach a paperclip to the bottom and throw it in the air, watch what happens.

Fun Fact: The paper spins in the air because, as it falls, the wings are pushed up at an angle by the air. With the wings at a slanted position, the air above one wing pushes down and the air below the other pushes it up.

Now: try changing your helicopter and watch how it those changes change the way it falls. For example, put more paper clips on the bottom, make the paper shorter, longer, wider, thinner...etc. See if you can find a way to make the helicopter fall faster or slower.