Lizard with Tail Autotomy

Some lizards have a unique defense for predators: tail autotomy. Tail autotomy is when a lizard’s tail can break off with no overall harm to the lizard, and the tail grows back. Sometimes the tail will even wiggle to distract the predator so the lizard can get away. Make your own lizard with a detachable tail.

Know before you begin

- This activity can be done inside or outside
- All supplies are easy to find, substitute or leave out entirely
- Adult supervision is recommended
- Please choose a safe space to play

Materials

- Lizard cardstock printout
- Spring clothespins
- Confetti, paper scraps for decorating
- Scissors
- Glue or glue dots

Instructions

1. Print and cut out a lizard on cardstock in your favorite color.
2. Cut off the tail.
3. Decorate body and tail separately using confetti or paper scraps.
4. Glue lizard to one side of clothespin.
5. Attach tail by placing it inside the clothespin.