Activity Card #2

Fun with Magnets

You will need:

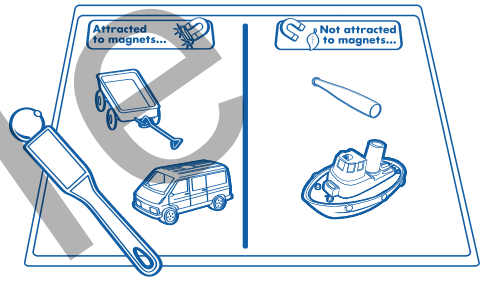
- "What Magnets Can Do" paperback book
- Magnets in your kit
- Magnetic marbles
- Magnetic & non-magnetic manipulatives from your kit, such as the toy van, rubber duck, wooden bat, bell, and toy wagon
- Magnetic sorting mat
- Science discovery tray
- Hand sieve
- *Sand box or sand table*

Standards met:

- Students explore by manipulating materials with simple equipment.
- Students use one or more of their senses to observe and learn about objects and events.
- Students describe observations in their own words.
- Students show an interest in investigating unfamiliar objects and phenomena.
- Students sort objects into groups and describe how the groups were organized.

These simple, engaging activities are sure to spark children's imagination and interest in magnets!

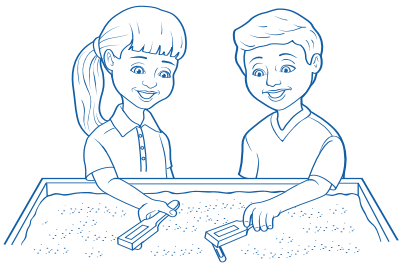
1. Begin by reading the book "What Magnets Can Do" to the class. As you reach appropriate passages, you may want to stop and show the children examples of what the book is referring to, such as bar magnets.
2. After reading the book, place a variety of magnetic and non-magnetic manipulatives on a table. Place the magnetic/non-magnetic sorting mat in a tray near the manipulatives. Explain that the children will be testing to see whether these objects are magnetic or not.
3. Encourage children to use a magnetic wand to test each object on the table. Have them hold the wand over each item. If it sticks to the wand, tell them to remove the item and place it in the "magnetic" section of the sorting mat. If it does not stick, have them place the item in the "not magnetic" section.



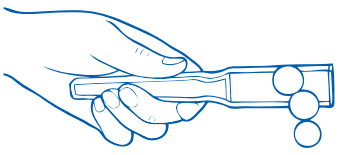
4. Ask children what the magnetic items have in common. How are they different from the other items?

Additional magnet activities:

• Magnetic scavenger hunt



1. Hide some magnetic and non-magnetic manipulatives in a sand box or sand table, making sure that the metal objects are not buried too deeply to be attracted to the magnets.
2. Tell children that you have hidden many small objects in the sand. Ask if they can find them without digging in the sand with their hands.
3. Help children discover that they can use the magnet wands to locate some of the objects. Have them place these items in the "magnetic" section of the sorting mat.
4. Prompt children to use the hand sieve to find the remaining objects. Have them place these on the "not magnetic" section of the mat. Encourage students to look at these objects and compare them to the magnetic objects. How are they different?



• Magnetic marbles

1. Place a magnetic marble on a table. Invite a volunteer to use a magnet wand to pick it up.
2. Have the child pick up a second marble by touching it with the first marble. Add more marbles to the chain in the same way, counting each one as it is lifted. Continue until the wand's force is not strong enough to lift all the marbles. How many marbles did it lift before the chain broke?
3. How many marbles will the other magnets lift? Try it and see!