

3. Draw a picture of each of the objects on a piece of paper. Make a copy for each child. As the children experiment with the magnets, ask them to write “yes” or “no” under each picture depending on whether or not the magnet picks it up.
4. Let the children explore classroom items to find magnetic items.

Related book *Mickey's Magnet* by Franklyn M. Branley

 Barbara Saul, Eureka, CA

Match the Object to the Animal

Materials pictures of animals focusing on a specific, unique body part (for example, an elephant's trunk)
objects that match pictured animal's specific body parts (see activity for ideas)

- What to do**
1. Collect a variety of animal pictures (focusing on specific body parts) and objects that match the body parts. For example:
 - anteater's nose—vacuum hose
 - camel's hump—water bottle
 - elephant's trunk—garden hose
 - spider's legs—knitting needles
 - sheep's wool—sweater
 - kangaroo pouch—baby carrier or pocket
 - chameleon—crayon/marker
 - crab claw—nutcracker
 2. Gather a group of six to eight children in the science and nature learning center. Display the objects and pictures. Encourage the children to explore the items.
 3. Have a brief discussion about how animals are all unique. Ask questions such as, “What is unique or special about a skunk?” “What can a monkey do that a dog cannot do?”
 4. Ask the children to find match the animal pictures with the objects displayed on the table. They can help each other find the matches or work alone.
 5. When the children have finished finding matches, reconvene in a circle.
 6. Ask the children to display their matches and take turns describing them. Ask more questions such as “How does the object match the animal in the picture?” “Can you think of other animals that might have the same body part?”

Related books *The Foolish Tortoise* by Richard Buckley and Eric Carle
If You Hopped Like a Frog by David M. Schwartz
The Holes in Your Nose by Genichiro Yagyu, translated by Amanda Mayer Stinchecum

 Kate D. Ross, Middlesex, VT

Nature Bracelets

Materials clear contact paper
scissors

What to do

1. Cut clear contact paper into strips and fit a strip around each child's wrist. Pull the paper from the contact paper so that the sticky side is facing out.
2. Go on a fall or spring nature walk. During the nature walk, encourage the children to find small nature items and stick them to their bracelets.
3. When you return to the classroom, ask the children to share what they found on their walk as they display their individual "nature bracelets."

Related books *Autumn Days* by Ann Schweninger
In the Tall, Tall Grass by Denise Fleming
Over in the Meadow by Ezra Jack Keats
Springtime by Ann Schweninger
When Autumn Comes by Robert Maass

 Kaethe Lewandowski, Centreville, VA