

Magnets

Language: Read *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein. Go around the room asking the children what they have been given and what they like to give to others.

Math: Ask the children to estimate how many paper clips one magnet could pick up out of a full box of paper clips and then try it.

More science: Find reference books with pictures of butterflies and/or birds for the children to study and appreciate. Put in the science area.

■ Jeannie Gunderson, Casper, WY

5+

Magnet Tray

Science skills

Children experiment and observe what is attracted to a magnet.

Materials

Plastic dinner tray or plate with one large and two small compartments

Horseshoe magnet

Small objects, such as safety pin, nail, paper clip, washer, cotton ball, piece of cloth, wooden popsicle stick, sponge, etc. (you might keep objects that magnets attract in a separate container and change the objects frequently to add interest)

What to do

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1. Use a permanent marker to label the two small sections of the tray "Yes" and "No."
2. Place several objects in the large section.
3. Select one object at a time and test it with the magnet. If the magnet picks it up, put it in the "Yes" section. If the object isn't attracted, place it in the "No" section. Testing one object at a time prevents pulling all the metal objects out at the same time!

More to do

Language: Increase vocabulary by naming each object used and by categorizing the objects labeled "Yes" as all metal.

Math: Count the number of objects in the large section before you begin, then count the number in the "Yes" section and in the "No" section when you finish.

More science: Increase the difficulty and interest of the activity by adding some metals the magnet will not attract, such as copper, brass, silver and gold.

■ Mary Jo Shannon, Roanoke, VA

Measurement

Measure Lengths

3+

Science skills

Children learn about measurement tools and practice making comparisons.

Materials

Ruler
Wooden yard stick
Plastic and fabric tape measures

Roll-out tape measure
Folding yard stick
Items to measure: dolls, play cars, books, cups, toy animals and children

What to do

1. Talk about the names of the tools we use to take measurements.
2. Let the children measure to see which doll is tallest, which car is longest, which cup is widest, which animal is shortest, which book is narrowest, etc.

More to do

More science: Measure all the children's heights at the beginning and at the end of the year to see how much they have grown and show them on a ruler. ■ Make the children's footprints at the beginning of the year by painting their feet with a foam brush and printing on paper, or drawing around the feet with a wide tip pen. ■ Show the footprint of a baby sister or brother and measure the difference between it and the footprint of a child in the class.

■ Marilyn Harding, Grimes, IA

Sorting by Size

3+

Science skills

Children learn to sort and classify, according to the criteria of small, medium and large.

Materials

Small, medium and large round items, such as apples, baseball, golf balls, ping pong balls, marbles
Box