

# MAGNETIC ATTRACTION

Jonna Kurtz, kindergarten and first-grade teacher  
Taft Elementary  
Middletown, Ohio

## Featured Fiction Book:

*That Magnetic Dog*

Author & Illustrator: Bruce Whatley

Publisher: Angus & Robertson, An imprint of HarperCollins Publishers

ISBN: 0-207-18420-8

Summary: Magnets attract metal objects. But this little girl's dog Skitty doesn't attract metal; she attracts food and people.

## Featured Science Activity: "Magnetic Attraction"

*Summary: Students make predictions and then test objects to determine if they are magnetic. They investigate a magnet's ability to attract objects through different materials.*

*Fiction-Activity Link: In the book, all kinds of food and people are attracted to Skitty, the little girl's dog. No one can resist her magnetic look. In the activity, students investigate what kind of materials are attracted to magnets and through what kinds of materials magnets can attract objects.*

## Part 1: Reading the Story

Read the story *That Magnetic Dog*. Ask the students what they know about magnets. Chart their responses. Tell them they are going to do some experiments with magnets.

## Part 2: Science Activities

### Magnetic Objects

#### Materials:

Per group of 2–4 students

- magnet
- collection of objects in zip lock bag
  - chalk
  - scissors
  - nail
  - eraser
  - marble
  - coin
  - paper clip
  - fastener
  - rubber band
  - pin

Per child

- scissors
- glue
- record sheet

Per class

- chart paper
- markers

**Procedure:**

1. Pass around the bag of objects and let the students study them.
2. Have students predict which objects will be attracted to a magnet.
3. Pass out the magnets. Have students test each object to see if their predictions were correct.
4. Have students discuss their findings.

## **Magnetic Power**

**Materials:**

Per group of 2–4 students

- magnet
- paper clip
- wooden ruler
- corrugated cardboard
- clear plastic cup with water
- fabric
- tin can (empty, tuna-sized, with edges taped)
- aluminum can
- shoe
- plastic pattern block
- glass jar

**Procedure:**

1. Have students predict whether the magnet will attract the paper clip through the various materials.
2. Have students test each item with the magnet and record the results.
3. Have students discuss their findings.

**Evaluation:**

Students will be evaluated by observation during the experiments and participation in the discussion. They can also write what they learned in a journal.

## **Part 3: Further Study**

**References:**

Hoover, E., S. Mercier, H. Larimer, M. Allen, D. Deal, G. Kahn, and V. Sipkovich.  
*Mostly Magnets*. AIMS Education Foundation. 1991, pg. 7-9 & 32-34.