

Project FOCUS  
Best Lessons  
FIRST GRADE

**Title of Lesson:** A Walk in the Dog Park

**Theme:** Physical Science

**Unit Number:** 3      **Unit Title:** Magnets

**Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter code):**

S1CS3

S1P2

**Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):**

\*standards of this lesson are underlined

**Habits of Mind**

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

**Content (key terms and topics covered):**

Magnets, magnetic properties, magnet force through materials

**Learning Activity (description in steps)**

**Abstract (limit 100 characters):** Magnets are strong enough to work through materials like paper and pieces of wood.

**Details:** First, give each student a small, rectangular piece of paper with an outline/drawing of a little dog on each end of the paper. Allow for them to color each of the pictures of the dogs on each end of the small, rectangular paper. Have them fold the paper in half and fold a small portion of the bottom of the paper. This allows for the folded paper to sit upright on the desk by itself and for a dog to be seen on each side of the folded paper. Have helpers/teachers go around and tape a paper clip to the bottom of the upright dog picture. Tell the students to set the “dogs” aside. Next, give the students a sheet of paper on their desks and allow them to decorate it as a dog park would look. Tell the students to put the “dog” with the paper clip attached to it onto their “dog park” piece of paper. Give each student a magnet. Tell them to put it under the wooden top of their desk and move it around beneath the “dog,” so as to move the dog along through its “dog park.” You should then talk to the students about the fact that the magnet is being attracted to the paper clip through the wooden desk and through the piece of paper (acting as the dog park) on top of the desk. Explain to them that a magnet need not be physically touching the object it is being attracted to in order to truly attract that object. Also, key in on the fact that the magnet is ONLY attracting to the paper clip in this situation, not the paper or the wooden desk, because the paper clip is the only object that contains iron (metal).

**Materials Needed (type and quantity):** [Click here to enter text.](#)

1. A small, rectangular piece of paper with a drawn dog on each end of it—ONE for each student
2. Color crayons/markers (only if the students do not have them available)
3. Tape
4. Paper clips—ONE for each student
5. A piece of plain, white copy paper—ONE for each student
6. A magnet—ONE for each student

**Notes and Tips (general changes, alternative methods, cautions):** Overall, this activity does not present any real danger. I would definitely say, as I mentioned in the activity description, to be sure to let the fellow teachers/paraprofessionals/helpers in the classroom aid in taping the paper clips onto the bottom of the “dog” paper that stands upright.

**Sources/References:**

- 1) AIMS Education Foundation Book
- 2) [Click here to enter text.](#)
- 3) [Click here to enter text.](#)