

# **SCIENCE @ THE LIBRARY**

## **MAGNETS**

Introduce the ideas of attract and repel as related to magnets.

### **MATERIALS NEEDED:**

1. Assorted magnets
2. Assorted metal and non-metal objects
3. Compasses

### **WHAT TO DO:**

Use the magnets to see if they pick up or are "attracted" to various metal objects. Note they don't pick up coins, plastic, us, etc.

Suspend a paper clip on a string or thread and see how it will "jump" to the magnet.

Permanent magnets are the "regular" magnets which always attract metal.

Show how magnets repel each other. Have a child hold two of the wand magnets and try to get them together when they are similar poles. There is enough force there for them to feel.

Put some paper clips in a cup of water and see that magnets attract even through water.

Show how magnetic force works through a thin table, wood, cardboard, etc. as long as it has something magnetic or metal to attract it on the other side.

See what happens when a magnet comes near a compass. What happens when you put the other end of the magnet near the compass?

Encourage free play with all the magnets.