



Magnetic car

EQUIPMENT	Two magnets Empty match box Drinking straw Two cocktail sticks or toothpicks Card, scissors Sellotape Plasticine or Blu-tack Coin or compass
PREPARATION	Make sure that at least one of the magnets fits inside the matchbox
BACKGROUND INFORMATION	<p>You can get the car to move without touching it.</p> <p>Two magnets can either attract or repel each other. If the North pole of the magnet in the car is facing the North pole of the other magnet the magnets will repel each other and the car will move. Similarly with the South poles facing each other.</p> <p>This is better on a smooth surface rather than a carpet.</p>
SKILLS	Making, observing
ACTIVITY	<p>Make the matchbox cars with the wheels and axles.</p> <p>Get them to move using the repelling force between the like poles of two magnets.</p> <p>The children may like to race the cars.</p>
SAFETY	General care with scissors
FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES	Design and make another moving vehicle based on the repelling force of magnets.

Make a Magnetic car

1. Cut out four wheels from the card (you can use a €1 coin)
2. Cut the straw into two pieces, making sure each piece is the same size as the width of the matchbox
3. Tape the pieces of straw to the underside of the matchbox near each end.
4. Push the cocktail sticks through the straw and fix the wheels to them.
5. Put the Plasticine over the sharp points of the sticks.
6. Firmly attach the little magnet to the inside of the tray of the matchbox and slide in the tray.
7. Place the matchbox on a table top. Bring the other magnet close.
8. If the like poles are facing each other the car should move away from the other magnet.

