

Magnetic Fishing Game

Get ready for some indoor fishing fun! This hands-on activity lets little campers make their own colourful fish and “catch” them using homemade fishing rods with magnets. It’s a great way to build fine motor skills, practice colour recognition, and enjoy a little pretend play – no water required!

What you need:

- Coloured cardstock (for making the fish), black cardstock cut into small circles for the eyes
- Blue construction paper cut into thin strips for “water”
- Coloured pencils/markers (for decorating)
- Scissors and glue (to glue on the eyes)
- Small metal bulldog clips or paper clips

(to make the fish magnetic)

- Round sticky magnets
- String/ribbon
- Paper straws (for the fishing rods)
- Optional: laminate the fish and use a plastic rod material (instead of the paper straw) and take the activity outside to fish in water!



What to do:

1. Draw and cut out fish shapes (can be done ahead of time.) You can draw different fish shapes, different sizes and different colours. Aim to have at least 3-5 fish per child
2. Decorate the fish! Let the children glue the eyes on their fish and then decorate their fish, even give them names.
3. Attach a small metal clip/paperclip to the “mouth” or the front of each fish. This will allow the fish to be picked up by the magnet later.
4. Make the fishing rods by first tying one end of a piece of string/ribbon (12-18 inches) to the top of a paper straw.
5. Stick a round sticky magnet to the loose end of the string. Press firmly so it stays in place. You can reinforce as needed for durability.
6. Set up the pond by placing the blue construction paper in a shallow box or bin to look like a pond and add in the fish.
7. Start fishing! Children hold their fishing rods and dangle the magnet over the fish to try and “catch” one by the metal clip.

Optional activity extensions:

- Add letters or numbers to each fish for a learning twist.
- Set up a “fishing contest” to see who can catch the most or find a specific colour/letter.
- Create a “Fish Market” dramatic play area where kids can “sell” their catch.

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