



The Invisible Pull

Robot Giraffe and the magnet mix-up

A SprigKids science story





Something is sticking!

Robot Giraffe stepped into Vern's science corner. Clink! A paper clip jumped onto the little magnet on his chest.



Is everything magnetic?

Vern placed a few safe test objects on the mat. "Let's make a prediction first," he said.



Not this time.

Paper, wood, plastic, and aluminum foil stayed put. The magnet did not pull them.



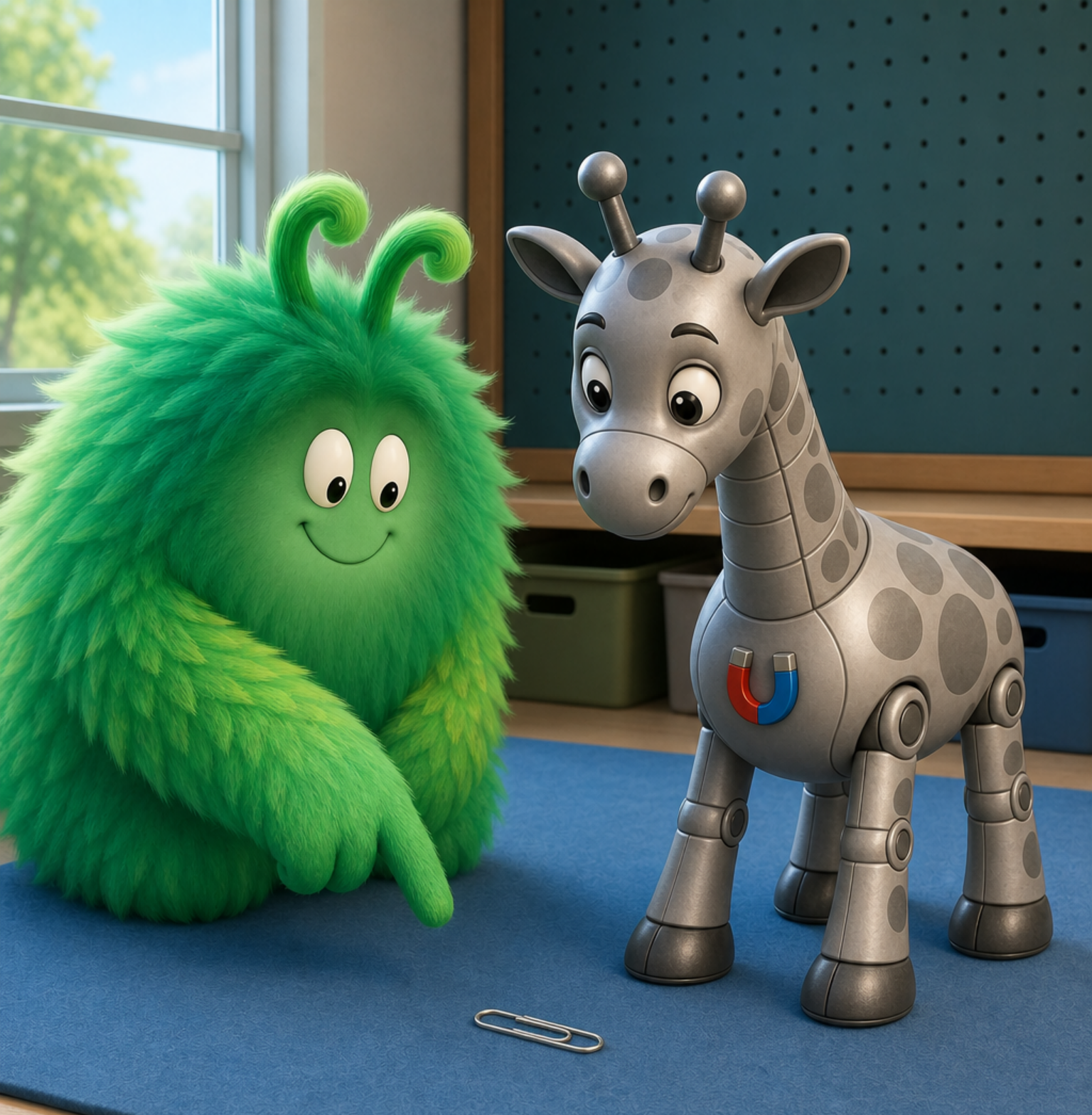
Steel joins in.

Then Vern tried a steel paper clip, a steel washer, and an iron nail. Clink, clink, clink!



Shiny does not always mean magnetic.

Some things look like metal but do not stick. Robot Giraffe's pile was getting smaller, and his chest was getting less crowded.



A pull without a touch.

Robot Giraffe held the magnet close. The paper clip slid across the mat before the magnet touched it.

"The pull can reach through the gap!"



Opposites attract.

Vern turned two magnets so unlike poles faced each other. They tugged together.



Matching poles push back.

Then Vern flipped one magnet around. The matching poles pushed away. Robot Giraffe's magnet cart rolled backward.



The pull is invisible.

We cannot see a magnetic field, but a compass can notice it. Near the magnet, its needle turned.



Magnet mode off.

Robot Giraffe switched off his tool mode and returned the magnet to its tray. His chest tool port was empty.

"Small magnets are science tools for careful, grown-up-supervised experiments," said Vern.

Grown-up note: Use small magnets only with a grown-up. Never put a magnet in your mouth.



Remember the invisible pull.

Magnets can pull.

Some materials stick.

Unlike poles attract.

Like poles repel.

The pull can act without touching.