

Top 5 Magic Tricks for Kids

Why not put on a magic show for your family and friends via video chat by using a few objects from your home and following this easy step-by-step guide? Before you start, you need to choose your magic word or phrase. There are some suggestions below if you get stuck.

Let the Magic Begin!

You will need:

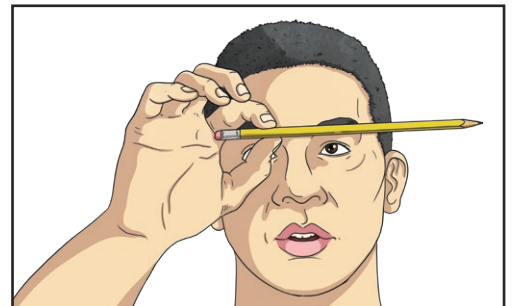
- an eraser-tipped pencil
- a coin
- a sheet of A4 paper
- a pair of scissors
- a pack of playing cards



Magic Trick 1: Rubbery Pencil

This is a very simple optical illusion trick that gives the impression that the wooden pencil has magically turned into rubber.

Step 1: Hold the pencil near the top, just below the eraser, between your thumb and your finger.



Step 2: Say the magic word.

Step 3: Begin to move the pencil slowly but steadily up and down so it swings backwards and forwards. As you do this, you will create the optical illusion that the pencil is bendy and made of rubber.

Magic Trick 2: Disappearing Coin

This magic trick is brilliant for developing fine motor skills. It requires sleight of hand (skill and speed in using your hands) so that you, the magician, can deceive your audience into thinking the coin has disappeared when, in fact, it is still in your left hand.

Step 1: Open your hands flat with the palms facing the ceiling and place a coin in your left hand, just above the base of your middle and ring fingers.



Step 2: Now, turn the left hand over while holding the coin with your thumb (making sure the audience do not see you do this) and then pretend to place it into your right hand, while all the time still holding the coin in your left hand between your thumb, middle and ring finger. When pretending to place the coin into your right hand, make it look like you have done so by closing this hand into a fist.



Step 3: Next, hold your right hand in the air in a fist, to make the audience think the coin has moved to this hand, while holding your left hand in the finger palm position (see pictures below).



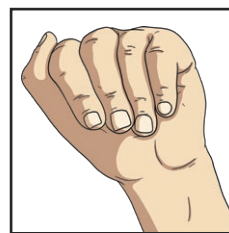
left hand

(finger palm position)



left hand

(what the audience can see)



right hand

(in a fist)

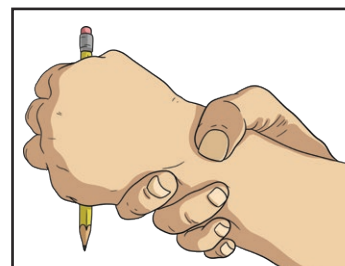
Step 4: Then, give the illusion that you have made the coin disappear by saying the magic word. Open the fist you made on your right hand, one finger at a time, to reveal that your hand is empty and the coin has disappeared.

Top Tip: When you pretend to transfer the coin from your left to your right hand, you can break the movement up by rearranging your sleeve. This can distract your audience for a moment so that they don't become suspicious about what is really happening.

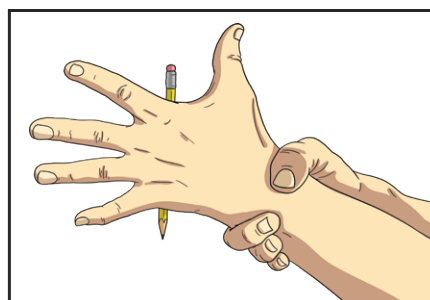
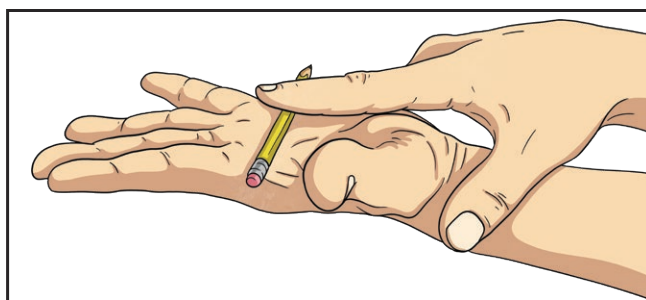
Magic Trick 3: The Magnetic Pencil

This trick is an optical illusion which gives the impression that the pencil is magically connected to the hand.

Step 1: Hold a pencil in one hand while grabbing your wrist with the other hand.



Step 2: Open the hand holding the pencil while secretly using the index finger on the other hand to hold the pencil against your palm, giving the impression the pencil has become magnetic. Move your hand up and down to wow the audience.



Magic Trick 4: Stepping through Paper

This is a fantastic trick that will truly amaze your audience, proving that you can, in fact, walk through a piece of paper without ripping it in two. It is very simple but very clever. Give it a go.

Step 1: Start by betting your audience that you can step through a piece of A4 paper without ripping it or tearing it in half.

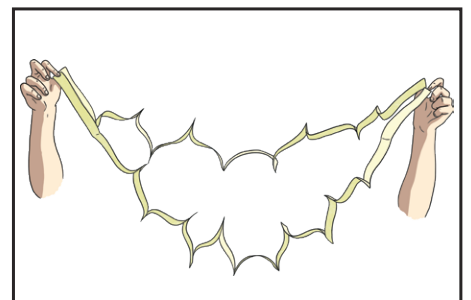
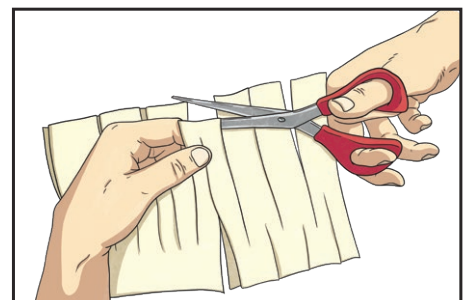
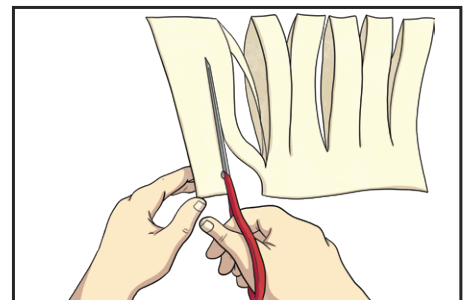
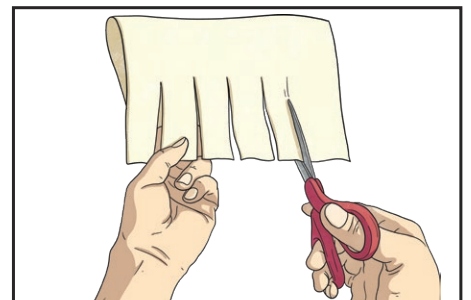
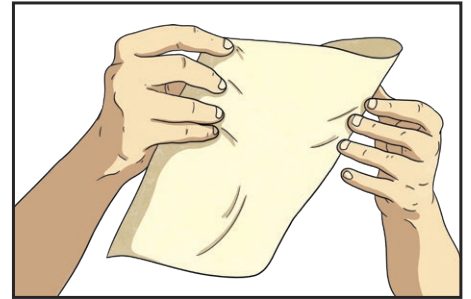
Step 2: Take a A4 sheet of paper and fold it in half.

Step 3: Cut a series of strips in the paper, starting from the side with the folded crease. Be careful not to cut right to the end of the paper. (See image.)

Step 4: Once you have finished cutting the strips, turn the piece of paper over and start cutting strips in the opposite direction, making sure again that you do not cut to the end of the paper.

Step 5: Now all that is left to do is to snip the folds at the top of the strips on the crease except for the folds on the first and last strips.

Step 6: Say the magic word, open the paper out and carefully step through.



Magic Trick 5: Guess the Card

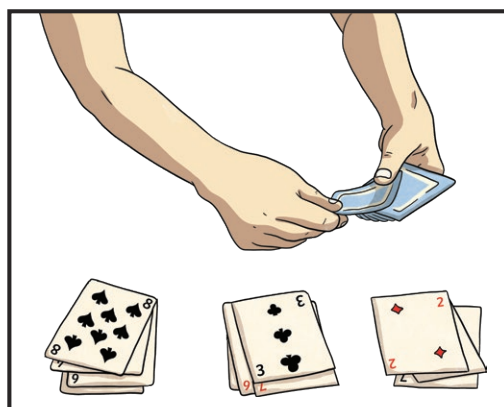
Step 1: Shuffle the pack of playing cards.

Step 2: Count out 21 cards from the pack.

Step 3: Shuffle these 21 cards.

Step 4: Fan the cards out in your hand with the pictures face down. Ask a member of the audience to choose a card, memorise it and place it back with the other cards without you seeing it. Reshuffle the cards.

Step 5: Next, ask the volunteer to watch carefully. Start dealing the cards into three piles, facing upwards. Once they are dealt into three piles, ask the volunteer to point to the pile that contains their card.



Step 6: Now, pick up the three piles of cards, making sure you always sandwich the pile with the volunteer's card between the other two piles. (Do not shuffle the cards.)

Step 7: Repeat steps 5 and 6 two more times.

Step 8: Now for the magic part. Say the magic word over the cards and deal them out. Count very carefully in your head as you do this. When you get to the eleventh card, announce to the audience that this is the volunteer's card.