

Personal Social and Emotional Development

Show the children an alien toy who is visiting them from outer space. The alien is feeling rather worried. Have a circle time to talk about ways to help the alien feel happy and safe.

Work together to play a parachute game. Place an astronaut or alien toy onto the parachute and invite the children to hold and lift the parachute to make the toys do space jumps.

Ask the children to think about what it would feel like to be on a space mission. Have they ever stayed away from home? How did they feel? Was it exciting? What did they do?

Explain that astronauts are often away for long periods of time. What do the children do to make themselves feel better if they miss someone? Make a list of ideas.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

I can respond to new experiences.

I can make choices.

I can correct my mistakes.

I can take part in simple pretend play.

I can make more links.

I can concentrate on achieving something that is important to me.



Mathematics

Provide space-themed Ten-Frames and Counters in a large activity tray and encourage children to explore number bonds to ten. Can they write a number sentence for each spaceship?

Provide 2D shape templates for children to draw around and decorate to look like aliens. Can they make a square/circle/triangle alien?

Practise counting backwards to play a rocket game. Invite children to crouch down and count backwards from different numbers. When they reach zero, they can shout "Lift-off!" and jump into the air.



To Infinity and Beyond!

Autumn 2



Literacy

Tell the children that an alien has come to visit. Invite the children to write labels on sticky notes to teach the alien the names of different items around the classroom. Invite children to create a book about space aliens. They could draw pictures of an alien and then write a description to help astronauts identify the different aliens.

Can the children read the simple sentences and match them to the picture?

Provide the children with a star-shaped template and ask them to write a wish upon a star. Create a wishing tree display and encourage the children to hang their wish on the tree.

Physical Development

Provide washable felt-tip pens, circles of filter paper and pipettes or small spray bottles of water for children to use to create planet pictures. Invite children to decorate the filter paper using the pens and then drip/spray with water.

Play an astronaut movement game. Call out an action for children to complete, such as rocket lift-off (crouch down and jump into the air), rocket racing (run around), walk on the moon (take slow, giant steps), or star gazing (do star jumps).

Make a tray of moon dust using eight cups of flour, one cup of oil and some eco-friendly glitter. Encourage children to practise forming letters in the tray of moon dust.

Encourage children to develop their use of knives and spoons by making fruit rockets and other space food.

Communication and Language

Play an alien description game to practise speaking and listening skills. Display pictures of [Aliens](#) and take turns to describe one of the aliens for others to identify.

Work with the children to follow a recipe to make [Space Star Biscuits](#). Encourage the children to talk about what they did, what they used and about the finished biscuits.

Ask the children to imagine they are going on a journey into space. Can they explain what they would want to take with them on their journey and why?

Encourage the children to think about and describe what they can see when they look out of a window at night. You could ask the children to do this as an activity at home and share all the things they saw with their friends back in class.

Expressive Arts and Design

Invite children to create wax resist space pictures. Provide wax crayons for children to use to draw stars, planets and rockets. Then, paint over the top with watery black paint.

Sing the nursery rhyme Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star and encourage children to use instruments to add twinkly sound effects.

Provide a selection of empty packaging along with tinfoil and paper shapes for children to use to create spaceships and rockets.

Provide the children with sheets of tinfoil and paints. Encourage them to paint a space picture on the tinfoil.

Set up a space-themed small world tray. Encourage the children to use the characters and objects to act out a storyline.

Understanding the World

Create a 'moon rocks' investigation box. Inside a cardboard box, place some pebbles (real or salt dough) along with magnifying glasses, tweezers and bowls. Cut holes in the side of the box for children to place their hands through and investigate the moon rocks.

Provide children with torches and encourage them to explore light and dark. Talk about things that can be seen at night or in the dark.

Look at the different famous astronauts and talk to the children about important contributions they have made.

Encourage interaction with the outdoors by fostering a fascination with the moon. Invite children to look outside their window before bed each night and observe the moon. Can they notice any changes and discuss these with their friends at the end of the week?

