

Discovery in Space

Aims and objectives

To extend children's vocabulary, oracy and imagination using a dark setting, allowing children to discover (whilst having fun) new experiences for themselves.



Introduction

Playing in the dark for young children can bring out all kinds of emotions, fear, excitement etc. Role play in space is ideal for capturing children's imagination and helping them to conquer their fears of the dark.

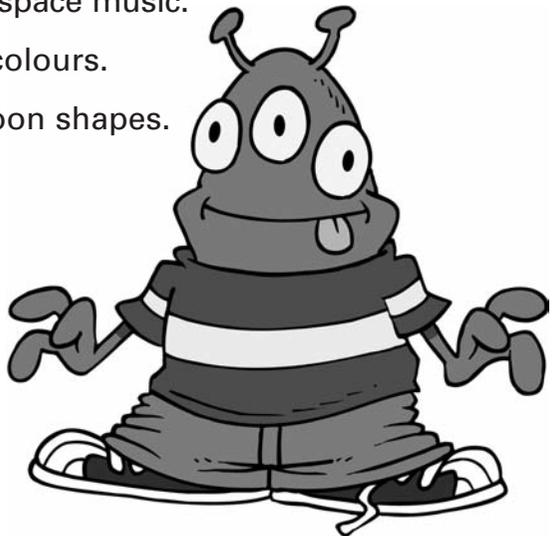
Assess the children during the first and last sessions on this topic in order to evaluate their progress.

N.B. It is essential that an adult models the work within the **space** area to teach children good modelling of language and play.

The **space** theme can be linked with the **night time** topic.

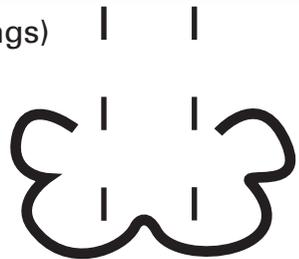
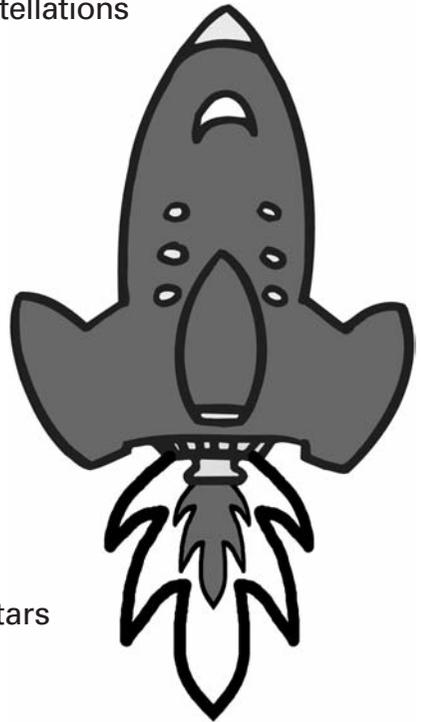
Suggested activities associated with this role play:

- Make a large rocket from empty cartons and foil.
- Make silver foil stars and hang them up in the area.
- Go for moon walks to space music.
- Paint aliens in bright colours.
- Sequence star and moon shapes.



Resources

- 2 large cardboard boxes, large enough for the children to sit in
- Posters of planets and star constellations
- Black drapes
- Torches
- Space suits
- Glow in the dark planets and stars
- Laminated aliens (children's paintings)

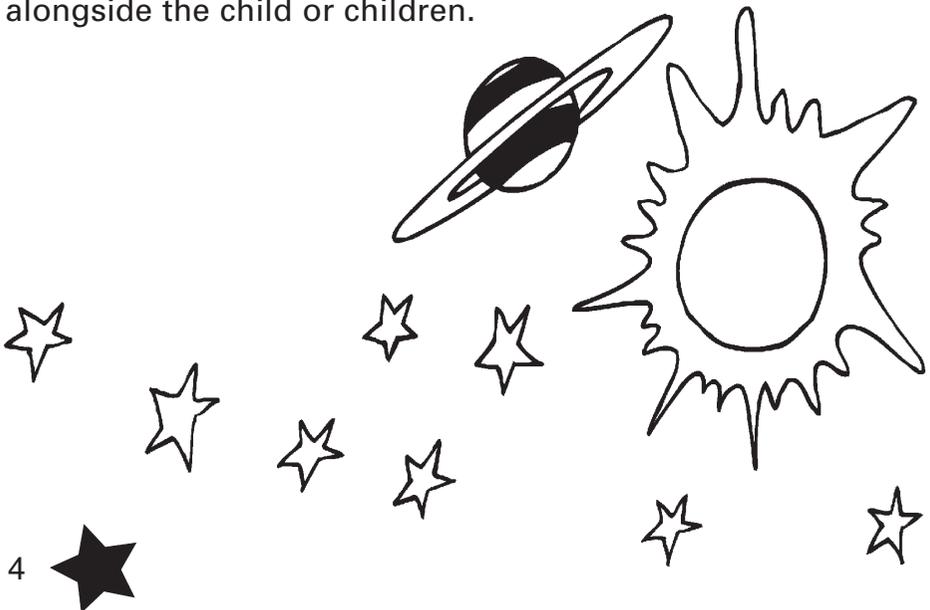


Preparation

Hang the drapes in the role play area to give a dark atmosphere, especially over doorways which can let the light in. Stick the aliens, glow in the dark stars and planets around the walls. The children can paint and stick various materials on to a rocket and these can be hung on a wall when dried.

Any posters of planets can be placed around the room, foil stars (made from foil pie cases) can be threaded and hung from the ceiling, all this can give the desired surroundings for effective role play.

Please note, if a child is scared of the dark, it is recommended that an adult takes on play alongside the child or children.



Role Play Commences

Designate a number of children allowed in the area, three or four is usually good for interaction and space. The children dress up in the space suits and 'enter the rocket'. A poster of planets next to the children can show the children where they would like to land. Allow them to choose and tell them the name of the planet they have chosen. Count down from 10 to 0, which is good for learning to count backwards.

The children can use the torches to help them see in the dark. Ask them questions about the things they see, point out aliens, stars etc. The children sit in the boxes and use them as space buggies.

Play continues by going back into the rocket and choosing another planet.

Allow short sessions of about 10 minutes, and introduce role play to other groups of children.



Impact on Learning

- Learning names of planets
- Gaining confidence in the dark
- Recognising light sources and shadows
- Counting backwards
- Extending imagination
- Confidence in speaking during interactive play



SECTION TWO

Written by Lorna Dunstan

The Home Corner	53
The Post Office	69
The Clothes Shop	79
The Seaside Shop	93
The Fruit and Vegetable Stall	105