

Johnson County Library's

BOOKS TO GROW

Kit theme: **SPACE**

- Book titles included:
 1. **I Want to Be an Astronaut** by Byron Barton
 2. **The Planets** by Gail Gibbons
 3. **Postcards From Pluto** by Loreen Leedy
 4. **Astro Bunnies** by Christine Loomis
 5. **Astronaut Handbook** by Meghan McCarthy
- DVD: **Moo Cow Kaboom!**
- CD: **Gobble, Quack, Moon**

Additional titles available at the Johnson County Library:

Dmitri the Astronaut by Jon Agee
Richie's Rocket by Joan Anderson
Mooncake by Frank Asch
Call Me Ahnighito by Pam Conrad
Our World is Earth by Sylvia Engdahl
Grandpa Takes Me To the Moon by Timothy Gaffney
Floating Home by David Getz
Stargazers by Gail Gibbons
The Sea Of Tranquility by Mark Haddon
Kitten's First Full Moon by Kevin Henkes
Moondogs by Daniel Kirk
Smile If You're Human by Neal Layton
What Next Baby Bear! By Jill Murphy
Space Vehicles by Anne Rockwell
Alistair and the Alien Invasion by Marilyn Sadler
Astronauts Are Sleeping by Natalie Standiford



See the back for activities to help children with these 6 by 6 *Ready to Read* early literacy areas:

Have Fun With Books

Notice Print

Talk, Talk, Talk

Tell Stories

Look for Letters

Take Time to Rhyme

Activity Ideas

Look into the night sky and make up names for new planets. Try to make the names rhyme with the names of family members. Playing with rhyming words like this increases your child's phonological awareness.

Using a book from the kit (or another book about stars & planets), review the names of the planets. Hearing and saying these words increases your child's vocabulary and makes the words familiar for when they are seen again in another book.

Sing "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" with your child. Use the traditional hand movements or make up your own actions to suit the words. Singing songs can help develop your child's phonological awareness.

Gather materials that can be used in a sink-or-float activity: rocks, corks, pinecones, pencils, plastic bottles, etc. Fill the sink or a large container with water. Before dropping the items in the water, ask children whether the object will sink or float. This activity will help children understand the concepts of gravity and weight and increase vocabulary.

Choose a planet and look around the room (or neighborhood) for objects that begin with the same letter. Playing letter games like this one will increase your child's letter knowledge and print awareness.

Help children poke or paper-punch holes in black construction paper. Take the paper and a flashlight into a dark room. Hold the paper up to the ceiling, shine the flashlight onto the paper and see the stars you've created. In the past, people created stories about 'constellations' that look like animals or heroic people. Help your children make-up and narrate a story about the star patterns you've created.

Countdown

Inside a rocket ship,
Just enough room.
Here comes the countdown
10...9...8...7...6...5...4...3...2...1
And Zoo-o-o-o-o-o-om!
source unknown

Bend and Stretch

Bend and stretch, reach for the stars
There goes Jupiter, here comes Mars
Bend and stretch and reach for the sky
Stand on tip-e-toe, oh! so high!
from *I'm a Little Teapot!* by Jane Cobb

Ten Little Astronauts

Ten astronauts in a rocket ship
(put fingertips together to make point of rocket
Flying through space gonna make a little trip.
(Make "rocket" go back and forth)
Going past Mars and Jupiter, too!
Ten little astronauts, what a crew!
(wiggle all ten fingers)
from <http://www.angelfire.com/dc/childsplay/>

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