

Out of this world

Have fun and get creative while learning about space and science in these out of this world activities!

Learning aims

- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design
- Physical development
- Mathematics
- Communication and language
- Literacy
- Personal, social and emotional development.



Resources

Moon and sand

- A bowl of sand
- A cup of water
- Two cups of cornflour
- Two tbsp coloured powder paint (silver, black, purple, blue)
- Add some glitter for moon sparkle.

Activity outline:

Mix the sand and cornflour together and slowly add the water. Mix until you get a breadcrumb consistency. Slowly sieve the colours you want to add to the sand (divide into separate bowls if you want different colours) and mix. The consistency should be soft enough to stick together and form small balls (planets) but not too wet that it is sticky. Add the moon sand to your tuff tray for children to explore.

Balloon rockets

- Cardboard tubes/large straws
- Balloon and balloon pump
- String and sticky tape
- Measuring sticks.

Activity outline:

Thread a long piece of string through the large straw or cardboard tube and attach the string to solid items at both ends so the string is taut. Attach the balloon to the tube using the sticky tape. Use the pump to blow the balloon up, hold on to the end and count down from ten, then let go! Ask children to think about how far the balloon travels. Provide tools to measure the distances.

Create a planet

- Balloons
- Glue/glue brushes
- Paper
- Paint
- Glitter
- Shiny paper
- Resources for decorating the planets.

Activity outline:

Blow up the balloons and tie them off (ask the children how big their planet is going to be). Use the glue and paper to cover the balloon to create a papier-mâché shape that can be used as a planet. Once dry, cut the bottom of the balloon and deflate (leaving the hardened paper shell). Provide a range of resources for children to decorate their planet with. Ask the children to name their planets and put them on display.

Talk to the children about the solar system and look at pictures of the planets. Ask children if they would like to create their own planet and to think about what it might be called before beginning the project.

Fizzy rockets

- Effervescent vitamin tablets
- Effervescent vitamin tablet tube
- Water.

Activity outline:

Go outdoors and find a level solid area from which to launch your fizzy rocket. Fill the tube a third of the way up with water. Add the vitamin tablet to the water, place the lid on quickly, turn upside down so the lid is on the ground and stand well back. Wait and watch the tube launch into the sky. You can decorate the canister to look more like a rocket if you wish.

Astronaut's tea party

Think about celebrating all things space with an astronaut's tea party. You can make some homemade astronaut's headgear using boxes and silver paper or foil to decorate. Or you can make some planet hats and attach the different planets onto a paper headband. Bake some rocket-shaped biscuits or circles as planets for the children to decorate.

Extending the activity

These are just a few ideas to get you exploring space. Other ideas might include:

- Creating your own space station
- Design your own space creatures
- Create your own solar system display
- Make some galaxy playdough (black dough with glitter)
- Practice moving like an astronaut.