



Short Activity
Ages 3-5
15–20 minutes

UFO Sensory Bag

Description

Participants will create their own sensory bag, place it over a template and move the googly eyes into position on the aliens' faces

Read a recommended read picture book before doing the activity (optional)

Number of Participants

For any number of participants

Space Considerations

An indoor space where participants can be seated to do a craft

Competencies

- Creative and imaginative thinking
- Development of fine motor skills
- Eye-hand coordination
- Sensory motor skills
- Spatial relationships

Materials

- Zipper sandwich bag
- Gel
- Googly eyes
- Crayons, markers or pencil crayons
- UFO sensory bag activity handout
- Pieces of cardboard the same size as or slightly larger than the activity handout (optional)
- Glitter (optional)
- Small tactile items (optional)
- Masking or duct tape (optional)

- Small tongs (optional)
- Projector and screen (optional)

Preparation

- Pre-fill sandwich bags with
 - gel
 - glitter (optional)
- Optional: select small tactile items to be used for activity in addition to the googly eyes. Ensure that the items are small enough that participants can fit a few pieces into the bag

Implementation

1. Read a recommended read picture book before doing the activity (optional)
2. Distribute
 - UFO sensory bag activity handout
 - sandwich bags filled with gel
 - googly eyes
 - crayons, markers or pencil crayons
 - small tactile items (optional)
 - tape (optional)

Instructions

1. Instruct participants to add googly eyes (and small tactile items) to the bag and close the bag, releasing air.
 - You can tape the zipper closed to make it more secure if you like



2. Flip the googly eyes over to face forward



3. Colour in the aliens and their ships (optional)
4. Tape the handout to the cardboard and tape the bag over it (optional)
5. Place the sandwich bag on top of the handout



6. Use a finger to move the eyes over the aliens' faces



Accessibility Considerations

- Provide filled sandwich bags with googly eyes already flipped over for those who need it or assist in flipping googly eyes during program
- Provide larger crayons and colouring tools if possible
- Consider providing small tongs for participants who may need them
- Use a projector and screen when instructing

Book Suggestions

The Book From Far Away by Bruce Handy and Julie Benbassat

The Book of Blast Off!: 15 Real-Life Space Missions by Timothy Knapman and Nik Henderson

One Giant Leap by Thao Lam

Download Links

Full Activity PDF

[UFO Sensory Bag Activity Handout](#)

Images





Craft
Ages 9–12
45–60 minutes

Stellar Salt Painting

Description

An art piece using watercolour paints and salt to create a starry-sky effect.

Number of Participants

For any number of participants

Space Considerations

An indoor space where participants can be seated to do a craft

Competencies

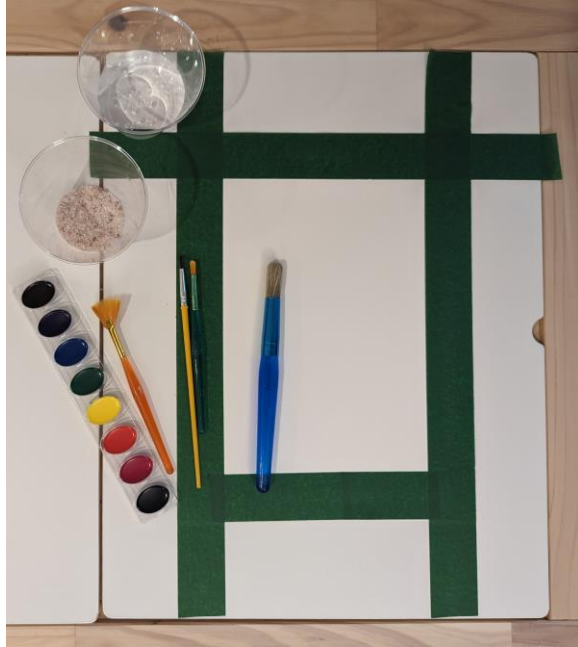
- Artistic expression
- Science

Materials

- Watercolour paints
- Cups of water
- Paintbrushes
- Watercolour paper or cardstock
- Spray bottle or small sponge (optional)
- Salt (different varieties—coarse, fine, etc.—will produce different results)
- Spoons (optional)
- Star stickers (optional)
- Pencils for sketching
- Erasers
- Masking or painter's tape

Preparation

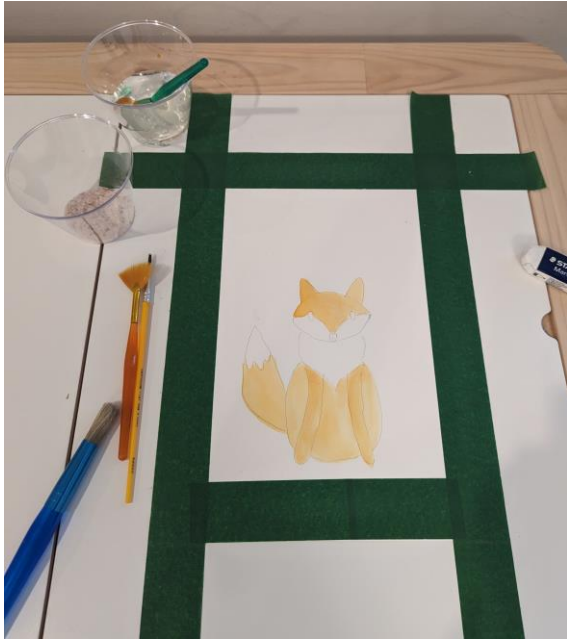
- Prepare the cardstock by securing it to the table with masking or painter's tape. You can create a border by taping the paper equally around the four edges.



- Set out watercolour paints, cups of water, pencils for sketching, erasers and paintbrushes for each participant. Add a small dish of salt at each station. Kids can use their fingers to sprinkle the salt, but spoons may also be provided.

Implementation

1. Invite kids to select a nocturnal animal to feature in their art piece—for example, an owl, a fox, a wolf, a bat or a hedgehog. They can sketch the animal or choose to paint an entire night scene.
2. Once the animal is sketched, it is ready to be painted.



3. Then, it is time to paint the night sky. Inform kids that they will be sprinkling salt on the night sky sections of their art piece. Note: for the galaxy effect to occur, the paint must still be wet when the salt is added. Working in sections (painting a corner, adding salt, then continuing to another section) is a good way to tackle this technique. Point out the spray bottles or sponges if kids need to remoisten their paper, or invite them to rewet their paintbrush and touch up the area before adding salt, if needed.



4. While the paintings dry, provide participants with a scientific explanation for this technique. Invite them to make predictions about how the painting will look once the paint has dried and the salt is brushed away.

Salt is a **desiccant**: it loves to soak up water. That's why salty food makes us thirsty; it absorbs the water from our body tissue, leaving us needing more H₂O. When the salt absorbs the watercolour paint, it creates the effect that you are about to see.



5. When the painting is dry, gently brush off the salt to reveal the starry night sky. A dry paintbrush can work, but participants can also use their hands. Some salt may stick, which creates texture and a faint sparkle.

Accessibility Considerations

- Provide spoons for sprinkling salt for any children who may have fine motor difficulties.
- Provide multiple materials for kids to draw with or add to the picture (e.g., 3-D rocket ship stickers).
- Sponges can be offered for painting with the watercolours instead of skinny paintbrushes that can be difficult to grip.

Book Suggestions

Kitcikisik (Great Sky): Tellings That Fill the Night Sky by Pawaminikititiciw (a.k.a. Wilfred Buck) and Mistawasis Buck

Mi'kmaw Moons: The Seasons in Mi'kma'ki by Cathy LeBlanc, David Chapman and Loretta Gould

Download Links

Full activity PDF

Images





Craft
Ages 9–12
30–45 minutes

Phases of the Moon Slider

Description

A craft that will model the different phases of the moon

Number of Participants

For any number of participants

Space Considerations

An indoor space where participants can be seated to do a craft

Competencies

- Creative and imaginative thinking
- Eye-hand coordination
- Problem solving

Materials

- Dark blue cardstock (8.5" x 11")
- Black cardstock (11" x 17")
- White printer paper
- Black markers
- Full Moon Template
- Phases of the Moon Sheet
- Circle Template
- Pencils
- Scissors
- Foam star stickers (optional)
- Stapler

Preparation

- Print Full Moon Templates
- Print Phases of the Moon Sheets
- Prepare for each participant to have

- Two pieces of blue cardstock
- One black cardstock
- A piece of white printer paper to trace eight circles
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Black marker
- Glue
- One Full Moon Template
- One Phases of the Moon Sheet
- One Circle Template
- Foam star stickers (optional)
- Stapler (can be shared)

Implementation

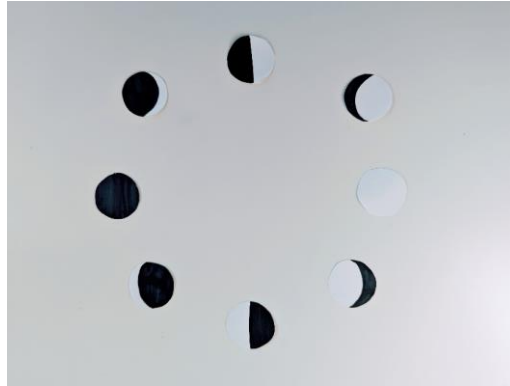
1. Instruct your participants to cut out the Full Moon Template. They will trace the full moon in the centre of one of their blue cardstock pieces, then carefully cut out the circle, as shown below.



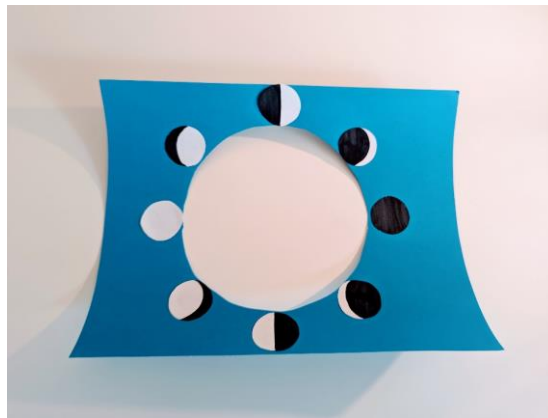
2. The Full Moon Template will be glued to the middle of a second piece of blue cardstock.



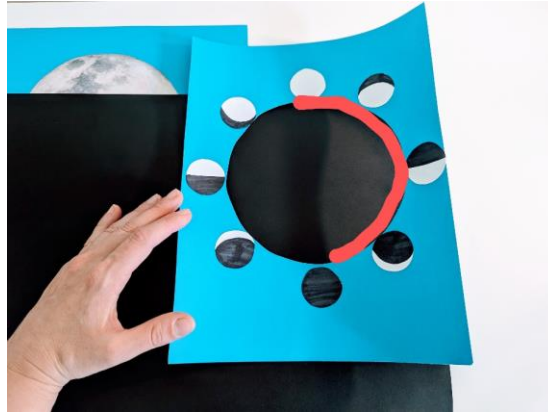
3. Then participants can begin preparing their phases of the moon. Instruct them to reference their Phases of the Moon Sheet to colour in each of the eight circles appropriately on the white printer paper. When they are finished, they can cut out all the circles.



4. The eight phases of the moon will be glued to the cardstock with the hole in the centre, as show below.



5. Participants will then use the blue cardstock with the hole in the centre to trace a curve on the black cardstock, as shown by the red line below. They will cut out the curve and repeat it on the opposite end of the black cardstock. This piece of black cardstock will be the slider and may require trimming after the next step is completed.



6. The two pieces of blue cardstock will be stapled together with all the edges aligned. The full moon piece will be on the bottom and the phases of the moon piece will be on top so that the full moon appears through the hole in the centre. Optional foam sticker shapes or other add-ons can be useful for hiding the staples!



7. Now it's time for everyone to test their slider. Show your participants how to insert their black cardstock slider in between the two pieces of blue cardstock. As they pull the black cardstock through, they will be depicting the different phases of the moon.
8. Here is a problem-solving opportunity: ask your group how they could depict the remaining moon phases with their slider. Hint: they could cut off a rounded edge and have one side of the black slider be completely straight.

Accessibility Considerations

- Assist participants with cutting and gluing as needed
- Offer easy grip scissors
- Have a couple of the templates already pre-cut
- If possible, print craft instructions in large font

Book Suggestions

A Few Beautiful Minutes: Experiencing a Solar Eclipse by Kate Allen Fox and Khoa Le

Mi'kmaw Moons: The Seasons in Mi'kma'ki by Cathy LeBlanc, David Chapman and Loretta Gould

Saving the Night: How Light Pollution Is Harming Life on Earth by Stephen Aitken

Download Links

Full Activity PDF

[Full Moon Template PDF](#)

[Circle Template PDF](#)

[Phases of the Moon Sheet PDF](#)

Images





Craft
Ages 3–5
20–30 minutes

Cupcake Liner Space Creatures

Description

Participants and their caregivers will create space creatures out of cupcake liners and various craft materials.

This activity can be packaged as passive programming.

Number of Participants

For any number of participants

Space Considerations

An indoor space with room for children and their caregivers to do a craft

Competencies

- Creative and imaginative thinking
- Creative expression
- Development of fine motor skills
- Spatial relationships
- Understanding shapes

Materials

- Cupcake liners
- Pencils, pencil crayons, markers or crayons
- Various types of stickers
- Googly eyes
- Tape or liquid glue or glue sticks
- Scissors (adult use only)

Preparation

- Cut any materials needed for the craft.
- Create a few creatures as examples.

- Make some paper props for the space creatures.
- Project examples on a screen (optional).

Implementation

1. Distribute cupcake liners and craft materials.
2. Participants can create their own space creatures with craft materials on hand.

Accessibility Considerations

- Provide various types of cupcake liners if possible
- Create premade paper props for activity
- Provide large glue sticks and/or tape
- Provide both right- and left-handed safety scissors (adults only)

Book Suggestions

Granny Left Me a Rocket Ship by Heather Smith and Ashley Barron

Hold That Thought! by Bree Galbraith and Lynn Scurfield

The Little Prince by Louise Greig and Sarah Massini

One Giant Leap by Thao Lam

Soon, Your Hands by Jonathan Stutzman and Elizabeth Lilly

Download Links

Full Activity PDF

Images





Craft
Ages 2-6
20 minutes

Cosmic Whirligig

Description

With the help of a caregiver, preschoolers will craft a cosmic whirligig to hang and admire.

Older kids can cut this spiral twirler on their own.

Number of Participants

For any number of participants

Space Considerations

An indoor or outdoor space where participants can be seated to do a craft

Competencies

- Creative expression
- Development of fine motor skills
- Eye-hand coordination

Materials

- Paper plates
- Scissors
- Markers, paint sticks, crayons, etc.
- Foam sticker star shapes or paper stars/planets to stick
- Sticker gems, if available
- Glue if needed for star shapes, etc.
- Glitter or glitter glue, optional

Preparation

- Set up the craft area with all the necessary supplies and prepare a Cosmic Whirligig to show the group.

Implementation

1. Kids will use the colouring materials to fully cover the front side of their paper plate.



2. With the help of an adult, if required, a spiral shape will be cut into the plate. Begin at the outer edge and cut inwards to the centre.



3. At this stage, kids can add foam sticker shapes, gems, glitter or whatever additions they would like.



4. Finally, with assistance, a hole will be poked in the centre of the whirligig and a ribbon or string can be attached for hanging.



Accessibility Considerations

- Offer kids a variety of instruments to colour and encourage them to choose what they feel most comfortable with
- Assist participants with cutting and gluing as needed

Book Suggestions

The Keeper of Stars by Jennifer Harris and Dorothy Leung

The Shape of You by Muon Thi Van and Miki Sato

What If Bedtime Didn't Exist? by Francine Cunningham and Mathias Ball

Download Links

Full activity PDF

Images



Craft
Ages 9–12
30–45 minutes

Aurora Borealis Art

Description

Celebrate the northern skies. Participants will use a chalk pastel technique to create an art piece inspired by aurora borealis.

Number of Participants

For any number of participants

Space Considerations

An indoor space where participants can be seated to do a craft

Competencies

- Artistic expression
- Eye-hand coordination
- Following directions

Materials

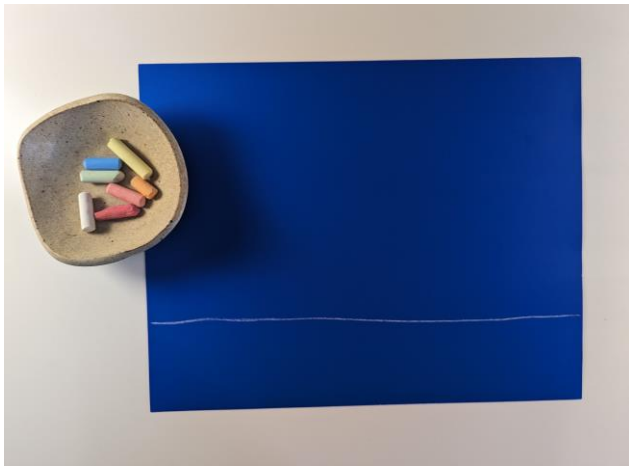
- Dark blue cardstock for base
- Scrap paper to tear
- Chalk pastels or coloured chalk in various colours: pink, orange, blue, green, yellow, etc.
- White chalk pastel or chalk
- Scissors
- Glue
- Black construction paper for horizon details
- Paper towel
- White paint
- Paintbrushes
- BBQ skewers for adding larger stars (optional)

Preparation

- Prepare the room with stations for each participant and decide if there are any materials they will need to share
- Consider showing images of aurora borealis in a book or a PowerPoint presentation

Implementation

1. Instruct participants to choose a horizon for the art piece and mark it with a white piece of chalk.



2. Then, participants will tear a piece of scrap paper in a similar way to the image below.



3. After laying the scrap piece of paper down on their background anywhere above the horizon line, participants will select two or three different coloured pieces of chalk and outline the raw edge of the scrap paper with their colours.



4. Then, participants will use their fingertips or a dry paper towel to smudge the chalk upward onto the paper to achieve the effect shown below.



5. Participants can then reuse the same piece of scrap paper by tearing a new rough edge. They can repeat the previous steps of chalking and smudging the chalk lines upward.



6. If the scrap paper is thick enough, participants can continue to reuse it by tearing a new edge. Otherwise, they can use a fresh scrap piece of paper to redo the steps above and add to their northern lights.



7. Allow participants to continue with the chalk pastels until their sky seems finished, but remind them not to smudge any northern lights beneath the horizon line.



8. Then, participants will use the black construction paper and a pair of scissors to cut out tree and mountain details that will lie along the horizon. They can sketch out the shapes with pencil first or do a free-handed cut. Once this paper addition is completed, participants will glue it along the horizon line.



9. Now participants can address the space beneath the horizon by creating a reflection of the northern lights in the “water” below. Using the same colours as their northern lights, they will draw short lines beneath the horizon to be smudged horizontally this time, not vertically.



10. After the northern lights reflection is smudged, white chalk can be used to define any trees or snow-capped mountain peaks, as well as thicken the horizon line as shown below. The following two steps will also illustrate how participants can add stars to the sky.



11. To make a sprinkling of stars to surround the northern lights as in the picture above, participants can dip a paintbrush into white paint, then flick it on the paper.



12. Larger stars can be added with the rounded end of a wooden skewer. The paintbrush could also be used.



13. Finally, allow the paint to dry and give each participant an opportunity to show their finished art piece to the group, if desired.



Accessibility Considerations

- Offer easy-grip scissors
- Assist participants with cutting and gluing as needed
- Offer large glue sticks or a plate of liquid glue to be shared

Book Suggestions

Freddie the Flyer by Danielle Metcalfe-Chenail, Fred Carmichael and Audrea Loreen-Wulf

Glow: A Family Guide to the Night Sky by Noelia González and Sara Boccaccini Meadows

Kitcikisik (Great Sky): Tellings That Fill the Night Sky by Pawaminikititiciw (a.k.a. Wilfred Buck) and Mistawasis Buck

Space: Science Is All Around You by Izzie Clarke and James Lancett

Download Links

Full activity PDF

Images





Short Activity
Ages 6–8
20 minutes

Balancing Cosmo

Description

Participants will assemble a paper robot (this year's TD Summer Reading Club mascot, Cosmo) and find its centre of gravity.

Number of Participants

For any number of participants

Space Considerations

An indoor space where participants can be seated to do an activity

Competencies

- Following directions
- Spatial relationships

Materials

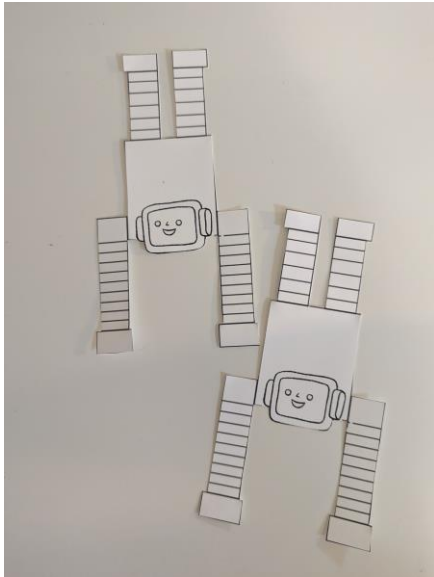
- 8.5" x 11" cardstock
- Scissors
- Glue
- A pair of small binder clips per participant (19 mm work well)
- A pair of dimes (10-cent coins) per participant, for an added challenge
- Tape or sticky tack, if using dimes
- Pencils for balancing the robots
- Various materials for colouring

Preparation

- Print the Balancing Cosmo template. Only one page is required per participant.

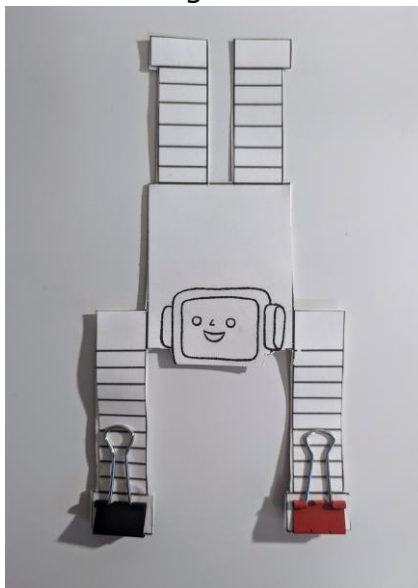
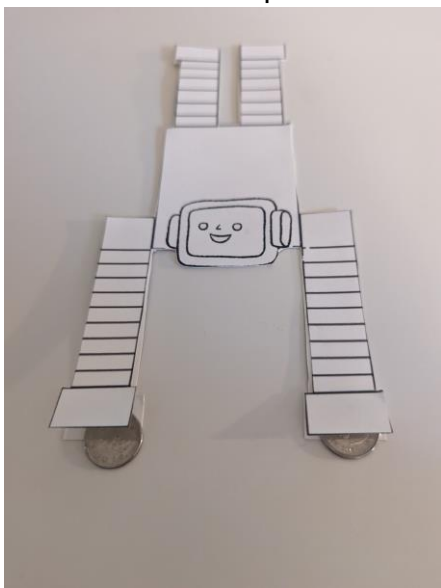
Implementation

1. Participants will cut out the two Cosmo robots on the template and apply glue to the backside of everything except the robot "hands." The two robots will be glued together with the hands left apart.

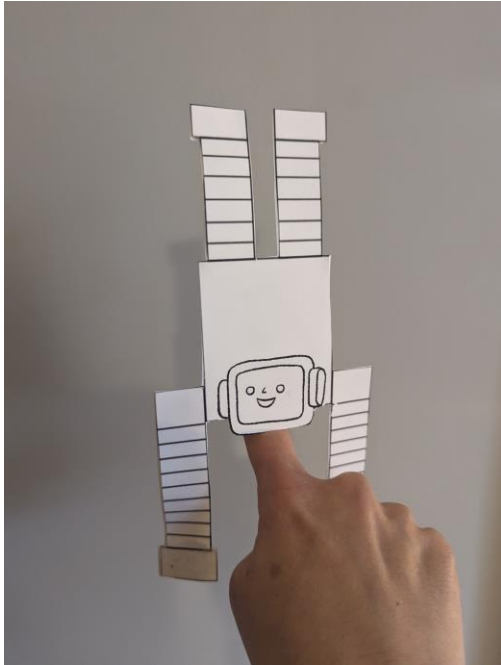


2. Participants will either a) clip a small binder clip to each hand or b) place a dime in each hand, attaching it using sticky tack or strips of tape around the exterior of the paper. Sticky tack allows kids to easily move the coins while trying to make the robot balance.

Note: the binder clips allow the robot to balance more easily than the dimes. The dimes provide an added challenge.



3. Now the robot is complete and can be used for balancing. It's tricky to find your balance in space! Participants can balance Cosmo on a pencil, their index finger or even the tip of their nose. It may take a few tries and they can have fun practicing.



Accessibility Considerations

- Offer easy-grip scissors
- Assist participants with cutting, gluing and taping as needed
- Offer pre-cut templates
- Offer kids a variety of instruments to colour their image and encourage them to choose what they feel most comfortable with

Book Suggestions

Little Moar and the Moon by Roselynn Akulukjuk and Jazmine Gubbe

Starboy: Inspired by the Life and Lyrics of David Bowie by Jami Gigot

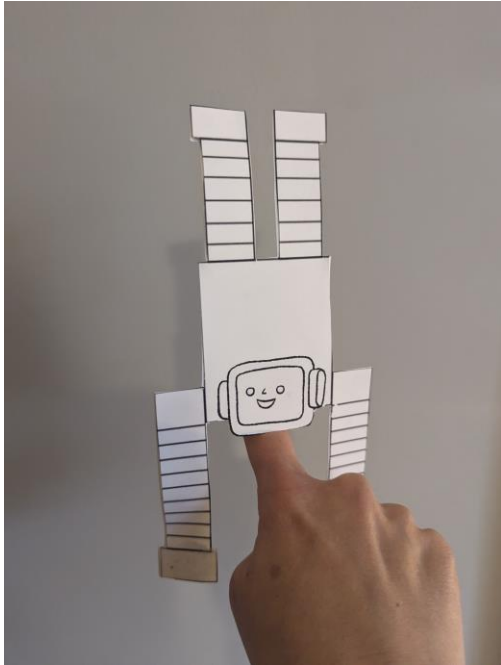
Totally Silly Science: Strange Space by Robin Twiddy

Download Links

Full Activity PDF

[Balancing Cosmo template PDF](#)

Images





Short Activity
Ages 0-5
20 minutes

Anishinaabemowin Blastoff

Description

Kids and caregivers will learn to count down in the Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe) language. A rocket craft with clothespins supports the activity.

Number of Participants

For any number of participants

Space Considerations

An indoor space where participants can be seated to do an activity

Competencies

- Eye-hand coordination
- Letter recognition
- Memory
- Oral communication skills
- Social interaction

Materials

- Clothespins
- Markers or crayons for colouring
- Black sharpies that adults can share for labelling
- Cardstock for rocket template
- Printouts of the rhyme sheet
- Strips of cardboard or additional cardstock to be used as rocket bases
- Scissors
- Glue

Preparation

- Set out the necessary craft supplies to make the clothespin rocket

- Print out the rocket template and cut the cardboard/cardstock rocket bases to the correct size
- Have a sample rocket on display that you can use to model the countdown
- Print copies of the rhyme sheet for participants and practice your pronunciation of the Anishinaabemowin numbers:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jDTArrDXQHs>

Note: We invite you to modify this activity to reflect the traditional language of the region that you are in.

Implementation

1. Instruct caregivers to cut out the rocket. Otherwise, the child can cut it out. Together, they will glue it on the cardboard/cardstock base. Kids will decorate the clothespins to be rocket flames and caregivers will number the clothespins from 1 to 5.
2. Once the children have decorated their rockets as below, instruct your group in the pronunciation of the Anishinaabemowin words.



3. Run through the blastoff rhyme a few times for practice and fun. To begin, have all clothespins off the rocket. Allow kids to clip on the number as it is being said (5: *naanan*, 4: *niiwin*, etc.).

4. Invite participants from the group to share if they can count down from 5 to 1 in another language.

Accessibility Considerations

- Use a microphone if available
- Indigenous pronunciations could be played on a speaker if available
- Provide multiple options for materials to colour in the rockets and clothespins

Book Suggestions

Hush, Little Rocket by Mo O'Hara and Alexandra Cook
Oolichan Moon by Samantha Beynon and Lucy Trimble

Download Links

Full activity PDF

[Rocket Template PDF](#)

[Anishinaabemowin Blastoff - rhyme sheet PDF](#)

Images





Craft
Ages 2-5
15–20 minutes

Alien Friends

Description

Participants and their caregivers will create handprint aliens by either tracing their hands or using pre-cut templates.

The activity worksheet can be used for passive programming.

Number of Participants

For any number of participants

Space Considerations

An indoor space where participants and their caregivers can be seated to do an activity

Competencies

- Creative and imaginative thinking
- Development of fine motor skills
- Eye-hand coordination
- Following directions
- Spatial relationships

Materials

- Alien Friends Template
- Cardstock or printer paper
- Googly eyes of varying sizes
- Stickers (optional)
- Pencils, pencil crayons, markers or crayons
- Large glue sticks
- Scissors

Preparation

- Print out Alien Friends Template, preferably on cardstock.
- Pre-cut hands (optional).
- Pre-cut shapes of different colours and textures.
- Create a few alien friends as examples.
- Project examples on a screen (optional).

Implementation

1. Distribute templates or blank sheets of cardstock for participants who want to trace their own hands.
2. Distribute scissors to those who are cutting out their own templates or their own hands.
3. Distribute craft materials.

Accessibility Considerations

- Consider using items that already have adhesive (e.g., stickers).
- Use large glue sticks or a bowl with glue and craft sticks.
- Provide various drawing tools.
- Make sure items are large enough to be easily picked up and added to the alien friends.

Book Suggestions

Hush, Little Rocket by Mo O'Hara and Alexandra Cook

One Giant Leap by Thao Lam

When Sunlight Tiptoes by Gillian Sze and Soyeon Kim

Download Links

Full Activity PDF

[Alien Friends Template \(8.5" x 11"\)](#)

Images

