



Light Up A Planet

#295

AGE GROUP



3-5 years



Multiage



6-12 years

HOW DO I SET UP & PLAY?

Curiosity Spark - Why do we have a day and night?

- Show children how to push one of the wooden dowel sticks into their styrofoam ball.
- Set out photos for inspiration and encourage children to use paints to decorate their version of Earth's surface (we are not aiming for accuracy here so don't be tempted to direct the art but you might mention the significance of green and blue on our planet as they paint.)
- When the 'Earth' balls are dry children can place a sticker on the surface to represent where they live.
- Now it's time to take turns being the sun or Earth. One person shines a torch (representing the sun) onto the ball in front of them. It's now daytime.
- The other person slowly begins turning the ball and darkness suddenly falls on the side with their sticker. Now it's night.
- Ignite conversations about Earth's rotating the sun.

WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- Styrofoam craft ball (can do one large ball as a group or smaller individual ones to take home)
- Blue and green paint
- Stickers - star or spot work well. You can also just use a dark marker
- Kitchen sponges cut in half then folded over and clipped with a peg to make a DIY paint dabber (can also use the craft foam brushes)
- Wooden craft dowel sticks (1 large for large ball or smaller individual ones for each ball)
- Photos of Earth taken from space
- Flashlights



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EXTENDING LEARNING SPARKS

- Challenge fine motor strength, eye hand coordination and balance with another simple activity that also represents Earth rotating the moon.
- You'll need a round cake tin or pie dish (metal or silicone so they aren't too heavy for children to manipulate). A small bouncy ball or marble and a little yellow or orange plasticine or playdough.
- Press plasticine into the middle of the tray to represent sun then pop in the ball and show children how to maneuver the tin so the ball rolls around the edge...and around the sun. It's tricky!

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