



**6 MONTHS - 2 YEARS**

**WEEK 2 ACTIVITY GUIDES**



**Let's Explore Space**



# Clay/Dough Aliens

## #265



Baby & Toddler



3-5 years



6-12 years



Multiage

## HOW DO I SET UP & PLAY?

- Set out the dough or clay in large lumps along with the collage materials and other tools.
- Encourage children to manipulate the clay or dough into the shape they want their alien to take then begin designing and decorating.
- Take creations home to show off on a paper plate or piece of cardboard from the recycle bin

## EXTENDING LEARNING SPARKS

- Challenge older children to use only clay and toothpicks to create their alien.
- Help younger children to trace around their hand on paper then encourage them to use markers and stick-on eyes to decorate their alien.
- Provide access to recyclables and other open-ended resources for children to make their own alien spaceship.



Challenging my fine motor muscles



Exploring & using my senses

## WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- Clay (air dry or wet) or Playdough (try this easy microwave playdough or this 'air-dry clay' recipe to make your own versions fast)
- Assorted collage and open-ended materials to ignite creativity - googly eyes, yoghurt squeeze lids, pipe cleaners, twigs, leaves, buttons, Mr Potato Head pieces, patty papers, wool strands....anything you think children might find interesting to help them create an alien....or anything else they want to.
- Tools like toothpicks, straws, rollers etc to help manipulate dough or clay.



# Stone Water Tray

## #326

### AGE GROUP



Baby & Toddler



Multiage

### HOW DO I SET UP & PLAY?

- Pour pebbles into the tray/tub.
- Pour enough water into the tub to just cover the small pebbles.
- Place tub on the ground or a low table along with the tools for scooping and pouring.
- Stand back and let children lead the play as they explore with their senses and hands.

### EXTENDING LEARNING SPARKS

- Give children scrubbing brushes, scourers and cloths to 'wash' the pebbles before they pour into clean containers.

### WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- Large tub or tray
- Water
- A packet of small landscaping pebbles preferably with different natural colours to explore (Find them in the garden section).
- Cups, scoops, ice cube trays, muffin pans, jugs (anything you have on hand for little hands to scoop, pour and fill!)



Building My  
Language &  
Literacy Skills



Exploring & using  
my senses



# Sensory Moon Walks

## #269

### AGE GROUP



3-5 years



Multiage



Baby & Toddler

### HOW DO I SET UP & PLAY?

- Pour sand into a shallow tub or deep tray. Smooth out the surface.
- Add pebbles and set up figurines and cars or other materials you are using to invite 'play on the moon'.
- Add some pictures of the moon around your sensory tray or tub or bury a few of the moon's surface underneath the sand for children to find.
- Show children how to make 'footsteps' and tyre tracks in the surface - I wonder what marks are left on the moon today?
- Drop stones into the sand like asteroids and examine the different 'craters' they leave on the surface. See if children can find real craters on the printed images. Step back and let children just have fun with their senses - there is no right or wrong way to play with a sensory tray!
- **For younger toddlers just spread a little sand out on a tray and add a few cars for them to drive through and make patterns. Supervise closely so kinetic sand isn't going into mouths.**

### WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- Kinetic Sand (or just plain sand if you don't have kinetic)
- Small garden pebbles
- Figurines and cars/trucks (doesn't have to be space themed!)
- Any small loose parts that will leave an imprint in the sand.
- Pictures of the moon and astronauts from the Curiosity Spark Space Printables Pack (optional).



Challenging My  
Gross Motor  
Muscles



Looking After My  
Environment



# Sensory Moon Walks

## #269

### EXTENDING LEARNING SPARKS

- Watch some videos together of the moon landing. Can they see the astronaut's footprints?
- Set out playdough with materials that will leave imprints and patterns in the dough surface to explore.

### WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- Kinetic Sand (or just plain sand if you don't have kinetic)
- Small garden pebbles
- Figurines and cars/trucks (doesn't have to be space themed!)
- Any small loose parts that will leave an imprint in the sand.
- Pictures of the moon and astronauts from the Curiosity Spark Space Printables Pack (optional).



Challenging My  
Gross Motor  
Muscles



Looking After My  
Environment



# Sticky Wall Space Window

## #270

### AGE GROUP



3-5 years



Multiage



Baby & Toddler

### HOW DO I SET UP & PLAY?

- Print out a few stars and small planets for each child to stick on the 'space window.
- Tape some large square or circle shapes of contact paper down low on a wall, window or door with the sticky side facing out.
- If you want to add more of a dramatic play element you might like to add a frame around the sticky window using card or coloured construction paper. You might also like to put the printed porthole pictures with real pictures of space up around the sticky windows.
- Spread out the star and planet pictures you have cut out then encourage children to stick onto the window to create a space scene.
- You can also do this down on the floor with babies and younger toddlers instead of vertically on a wall.

### EXTENDING LEARNING SPARKS

- Build a spaceship or space station using cardboard boxes and set up near the sticky space windows to invite role play.
- Stick stars on the floors and walls around the room with a little double sided tape and challenge children to find and then peel the stars off.

### WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- Sticky/Contact
- Paper
- Planet & Star images printed out from the Space Curiosity Spark Printables Pack
- Porthole pictures printed from the same pack
- Tape
- Cardboard or construction paper (optional)



Challenging My Gross Motor Muscles



Exploring & using my senses



# Space Walk

## #272

### AGE GROUP



3-5 years



Multiage



Baby & Toddler

### HOW DO I SET UP & PLAY?

- This is a group activity to help make the concept of gravity more visual and will suit large or small groups just by modifying the number of blocks you set out.
- First explain or show children how astronauts need to be tied to a special cord that keeps them anchored to the ship otherwise they could just float away into space like a balloon
- Begin with everyone sitting on the mat/blanket/cushions to start as this becomes the space ship.
- Scatter the blocks around out in front of the children away from the 'ship' where they are sitting.
- Choose the first astronaut to go on a space walk and tie a long length of twine or ribbons around their waist. Pass the other end to their fellow astronauts and tell them to hold as their friend begins to 'float' out to pick up a block then help them come back in.
- If you have a large group I would suggest 2-3 children going out to walk at one time to ensure the other astronauts aren't growing bored while everyone has a turn!
- When all the blocks have been retrieved challenge children to build something together for their spaceship.

### WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- Blanket or mat to sit on (or your space dramatic play area).
- Twine or ribbon
- Blocks - at least 1 for each child.
- Pictures or video of real astronauts walking outside of a spaceship.



Challenging My  
Gross Motor  
Muscles



Exploring & using  
my senses



# Space Walk

## #272

### EXTENDING LEARNING SPARKS

- Set up the space ship with dramatic play props and open ended materials so children can extend on their play independently.
- Play tug of war with a rope outside to practice more pulling movements.
- Pretend to float in space to some slow music then walk forward quickly when the music changes to a faster tempo.

### WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- Blanket or mat to sit on (or your space dramatic play area).
- Twine or ribbon
- Blocks - at least 1 for each child.
- Pictures or video of real astronauts walking outside of a spaceship.



Challenging My  
Gross Motor  
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Exploring & using  
my senses



# Ribbon Whisk

## #327

### AGE GROUP



Baby & Toddler



Multiage

### HOW DO I SET UP & PLAY?

#### *Curiosity Spark - Can you pull the ribbons out?*

- Push lengths of ribbon into the head of each whisk. Don't worry if you can't get all of the ribbons to stay entirely inside the whisk - it will be easier for little hands to grasp anyway.
- Tug on a piece of the ribbon and draw it out in front of the children then allow them to investigate and begin pulling out each strand of ribbon one at a time.
- When a child pinches the end of the ribbon to grasp and pull it engages the smaller muscles in the hand, which later helps them to grip a pencil, pen, paintbrush or crayon to begin making marks.

### EXTENDING LEARNING SPARKS

- Turn a cardboard box upside down and cut some slits in the top. Provide jar or bottle lids for children to push into the holes you created in the box.
- Take a clean and empty spice jar and poke some pipecleaners through the lid holes into the jar. Show toddlers how to pinch and pull out the pipecleaners then poke back in again.

### WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- 2-3 Clean whisks
- Lengths of ribbon in various colours



Challenging My  
Gross  
Motor Muscles



Exploring &  
using  
my senses



# Gravity Jump & Drop

## #277

### AGE GROUP



3-5 years



Multiage



Baby & Toddler

### HOW DO I SET UP & PLAY?

**Curiosity Spark - What happens to things that go up? What pulls us down?**

- Introduce younger children to the basic concept of gravity with this activity that also gets the muscles moving!
- Start by doing some jumping - 1 foot or 2 feet depending on the age group. Then ask if the children can jump and stay up in the air. Make it a fun game with some fast-paced music.
- Now pass the 'light' scarves out (or inflated balloons) and show children how to throw them up in the air then try to catch them as they float back down. Do they come down fast or slow?
- Next, you can try throwing some soft but 'heavier' balls up into the air.
- Introduce new words and position concepts to the children as you play...heavy, light, up, down, fast, slow, gravity, high, low, pull.

### EXTENDING LEARNING SPARKS

- Stick some shapes or pictures on the wall and encourage children to jump up and touch them.
- Provide a variety of everyday objects or toys that will clearly fall at different rates. Children choose an object then hold up high and drop into a tub or basket on the ground. Ask older children to share what they notice about how each item falls, was it fast or slow?

### WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- Scarves
- Balls
- Space to jump around
- Music (optional)



Challenging My  
Gross  
Motor Muscles



Exploring Simple  
Math Concepts