



**6 MONTHS - 2 YEARS**

**WEEK 4 ACTIVITY GUIDES**



**Let's Explore Space**



# Fly with Scarves

## #337

### AGE GROUP



Baby & Toddler



3-5 years



Multiage

### HOW DO I SET UP & PLAY?

#### *Curiosity Spark - Where is high? Where is low?*

- Give each child a silk or scarf and turn on some music - I like to have a mix of slow and fast tempos.
- Let children free dance and run around to the music then begin calling out simple directions for them to follow and challenge coordination.
- Use directions that help children to grasp position concepts. Can you fly with your scarf up high....now down low....now flap it behind you. Can you wiggle your scarf fast...then slow?
- Can you fly like a bird when you have 2 scarves?

### EXTENDING LEARNING SPARKS

- Place a pile of the scarves into a basket or tub then hide a few favourite toys within the scarf pile - make sure some are slightly visible so they can start confidently. Encourage baby or toddler to investigate and find the treasures.
- Place a few different coloured scarves (rolled or scrunched up) into a small tub or basket. Wrap around some wool over the top of the open basket and underneath so it looks like a spider web with large gaps! Use more wool if you have older children you want to challenge. Encourage toddlers to pull each scarf out of the gaps. Ask older children if they can name the colours as they find them.

### WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- Lightweight small play scarves or silks (you can also find some wonderfully silky scarves in the op/thrift shops).
- Music of choice



Challenging My  
Gross  
Motor Muscles



Building My  
Language &  
Literacy Skills



# Observatory Tunnel

## #278



Baby & Toddler



Multiage



6-12 years

## HOW DO I SET UP & PLAY?

*Curiosity Spark - What can we use to see in the dark? Can you get to the other side?*

- Turn the box on its side with flaps open at each end and arrange lights on the top. Poke some holes through the box so the lights can twinkle through the gaps into the box tunnel -or place on the inside if you can secure them firmly.
- Tape pictures of planets and galaxies to the inside and outside of the tunnel and stick glow in dark stars to the box if you have them.
- Add some torches and books about space for older children to use inside the tunnel. Toddlers and crawlers will just enjoy the sensory experience of crawling through the tunnel.
- You could also put some larger holes in the side of the box and push a paper towel roll through to act as a telescope.

## EXTENDING LEARNING SPARKS

- Make shadow shapes on a wall using a torch.
- Join a few boxes together and add some cushions inside to create a mini crawler/toddler obstacle course.

## WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- Large fridge or appliance box
- Rope/Christmas lights
- Glow in the dark stars
- Printed images of the moon, planets and other dramatic play labels from the space printables pack.



Exploring & using my senses



Challenging My Gross Motor Muscles



# Sensory Star Bags

## #333

### AGE GROUP



Baby & Toddler



3-5 years



Multiage

### HOW DO I SET UP & PLAY?

- Tape the black cardboard to a tabletop or floor space
- Add half a bottle of the hair gel to each bag.
- Tip in some of the stars (not too many as you want to leave space in the bag for fingers to be able to just squish the gel as well).
- Before sealing the bag, lay it flat on the table and squeeze out as much air as possible.
- When sealed lay the bag on top of the cardboard then tape each end of the bag to the card using strong duct tape.

### EXTENDING LEARNING SPARKS

- Put some colourful stickers, dots or shapes onto the black cardboard underneath the gel bag. Encourage older children to see if they can move the stars and gel around until they 'find' the pictures and they can be seen through the plastic.
- Place a photo of a family member or familiar face into the bag next time instead of stars and mix the gel with a few drops of red food colouring. Children will need to press and push the gel out of the way to see the photo face.

### WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- Large size ziplock bags
- Clear hair gel (I get 2 large bags out of one large size bottle)
- Star-shaped foil confetti/table sparkles
- Black cardboard
- Duct tape



Exploring & using my senses



Challenging my fine motor muscles



# Shiny Surfaces Sensory Bin

## #334

### AGE GROUP



Baby & Toddler



Multiage

### HOW DO I SET UP & PLAY?

#### *Curiosity Spark - Can you see your face?*

- Pour sand into your tub or tray and if you would like to make it black stir through a teaspoon or two of the black edicol dye.
- Bury some of the shiny items in the sand and sit others on top
- Stand back and let the children fill, empty, scoop, pour and explore with their senses.

### EXTENDING LEARNING SPARKS

- Name the objects as the children pick them up & talk about what we use them for.
- Add shiny objects to a water tray for younger toddlers and babies at tummy time to explore easily.
- Place laminated mirror tiles in the sand or flat on the ground for children to look at their faces and reflections of the things around them.

### WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- Household or interesting loose parts that have a shiny surface e.g silver jugs, spoons, measuring cups, whisk, balls, mixing bowls, old dvd's, foil trays, egg rings, saucepans, scoops.
- Deep tray or tub Sand
- Black Edicol Dye Powder (optional)



Exploring & using my senses



Building My Language & Literacy Skills



# Peg Hunt

## #336

### AGE GROUP



Baby & Toddler

### HOW DO I SET UP & PLAY?

#### *Curiosity Spark - Will it fit in there?*

Easier version

- Clip some pegs loosely to cushions and toys then place near baby or toddler to find.
- Give them an empty milk container to drop the pegs into, shake around then tip out again.
- I also like to put them inside small boxes and purses to find and pull out . Make sure they see you do it as it's an opportunity to help them explore object permanence.

### EXTENDING LEARNING SPARKS

More challenging version to try for older children...

- Add some plastic cups to a basket and encourage toddlers to find the pegs you have clipped onto toys or furniture around the room then put into their cups. They love to collect, stack and empty those cups!

### WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- 2 - 3 Empty plastic juice/water/milk bottles (the ones with a handle on the side)
- Packet of clean wooden pegs (clothespins)



Exploring & using my senses



Challenging my fine motor muscles



# Reach for the Stars

## #336



Baby & Toddler



Multiage



6-12 years

## HOW DO I SET UP & PLAY?

### *Curiosity Spark - How high can you jump or stretch?*

- Cut some short and some long lengths from your streamer roll.
- Tape the stars you have cut out to the lengths of crepe paper . 5 - 10 star streamers to hang is enough.
- Now fix the other end of your streamer to the ceiling, window sill, door, furniture etc just out of reach of the children. Make sure to vary the heights and provide a few more challenging ones!
- Ask children to jump or stretch with their fingers and toes to see if they can reach a star. Keep moving around to try different ones.

## EXTENDING LEARNING SPARKS

- Stick a velcro dot (rough side out) to the back of each star and press onto one edge of the carpet or mat. Children lie on their tummies and need to wiggle and push with their legs to reach a star - no hands allowed until they reach the star!
- Play a scavenger hunt game to run and find the stars you have hidden outside.

## WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- Stars cut out of cardboard (or use template from the space printables pack).
- Roll of crepe paper streamers
- Masking or painters tape



Exploring & using my senses



Challenging my fine motor muscles



# Salty Moon Rocks

## #288



Baby & Toddler



3-5 years



6-12 years



Multiage

## HOW DO I SET UP & PLAY?

*Curiosity Spark - What could a moon rock look like?*

- Measure out ingredients together into a large bowl
- Take turns stirring and adding a little bit of water at a time - it should become harder to stir and start forming a ball.
- If too sticky or wet, knead in a little more flour - this can be done by the children!
- Break off small portions of the salt dough and hand out to children to knead and squish into their moon rock shapes.
- While the children have fun creating rocks line a tray with baking paper. As the children finish, place on the tray and write the child's initials next to each one.
- Bake in a slow oven (I do about 160 degrees celsius) for around 2 hours - but this will depend on the thickness of the 'rocks' - you want them to feel hard.
- While waiting children can label and decorate their 'moon rocks' bag ready to take their treasures home to play with.

## EXTENDING LEARNING SPARKS

- Introduce a tray with playdough, kinetic sand or clay along with some smooth shaped pebbles. Ask what happens if the children press the pebbles into the dough or sand surface...do they look a little like craters on the moon.
- Investigate pictures, books and videos of the moon's surface.

## WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- 1 Cup Table (not rock) Salt
- 4 Cups Plain (All-purpose) Flour
- 1.5 Cups Water (approx. You might need a little more or less if too sticky).
- Brown paper bag for each child
- 'Moon Rocks' label from the curiosity sparks space printables pack (or children can draw their own labels).
- Small bowls or clean table space for children to mix and roll their moon rock dough pieces.
- Baking tray, sharpie and non stick paper.



Building My  
Language &  
Literacy Skills



Exploring Simple  
Science Concepts