

Night Skies and Outer Space

Tips, Songs, and Rhymes for Parents and Caregivers

Here are ideas and activities to try this week with your child. Each activity is based on one of the **7 Days • 7 Ways** principles of early literacy development and is designed to engage your child, stimulate his or her literacy skills, and enhance the bonds between you.

- **SHARE BOOKS** When sharing books with your child, talk about the pictures, point to repeated words from time to time, and let your child help turn the pages. Books on outer space and aliens should be well received.
- **SHARE WORDS** Try to introduce a few new words to your child every day. Simply say the new word and explain it briefly. Some new words your child may not be familiar with that are related to space and space travel include astronaut, launchpad, orbit, gravity, oxygen, and spacesuit.
- **SHARE RHYMES** See if your child can make rhyming word pairs. Ask her to name words that rhyme with star (bar, car, far, tar, jar) and moon (soon, noon, tune, goon, June).
- **SHARE SONGS** “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star” was created as a lullaby. Sing it for your child after his bedtime story.
- **SHARE STORIES** Tell your child one of the Native American legends about how the stars came to be in the sky. “The Stars of Orion’s Belt” is one of the most popular of these. There are many ancient legends about the night skies. Find more choices at: <http://home.comcast.net/~ismch/starmyths.htm>
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** Make star and moon shapes from play dough. Or, if you have a black light, let your child do drawings with fluorescent markers and look at her work under the black light.
- **SHARE WRITING** Make a star template by cutting a star shape from poster board. Have your child trace around the star on yellow construction paper. Help her cut it out and add her name to it. Tape a yarn loop to the back, and hang the star from her bedroom doorknob.

Here are the words to the songs and rhymes that you and your child enjoyed today. By continuing to sing, chant, and play with your child throughout the week, you will help him or her make sense of the new information and concepts introduced at storytime.

Songs

Moving Hands

(sung to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”)

Put your hands on your head, *(Suit actions to words)*
Put your hands on your knees,
Put your hands behind you now,
If you please.

Put your hands on your tummy,
Put your hands on your toes,
Put your hands upon your cheeks,
Put them on your nose.

Put your hands in the air,
Put your hands on your hair,
Clap your hands, one, two, three,
Then fold them on your knees.

On My Spaceship

(sung to the tune of “Bumping Up and Down in My Little Red Wagon”)

Climbing up the ladder to my little white spaceship,
(Pretend to climb up ladder)
Climbing up the ladder to my little white spaceship,
Climbing up the ladder to my little white spaceship,
Traveling to the moon.

Buckled in my seat and putting on my helmet,
(Pretend to buckle belt and put on helmet)
Buckled in my seat and putting on my helmet,
Buckled in my seat and putting on my helmet,
Ready to blast off soon!

It’s time to go, I’m listening for the countdown,
(Put hand to ear to listen)
It’s time to go, I’m listening for the countdown,
It’s time to go, I’m listening for the countdown,
Five, four, three, two, one! *(Count down on fingers)*

Floating all around in my little white spaceship,
(Move as if floating around)
Floating all around in my little white spaceship,
Floating all around in my little white spaceship,
Riding to the moon!

Tips, Songs, and Rhymes for Parents and Caregivers

When You Wish Upon a Star

(Provide streamers or star wands and have your child move them to the music)

When you wish upon a star,
Makes no difference who you are.
Anything your heart desires
Will come to you.

If your heart is in your dream,
No request is too extreme,
When you wish upon a star,
As dreamers do.
(Repeat)

Aiken Drum

(Clap during the chorus and point to each body part; child can also play an instrument while singing)

There was a man lived in the moon, in the moon, in the moon.
There was a man lived in the moon, and his name was Aiken Drum.

Chorus

And he played upon a ladle, a ladle, a ladle,
He played upon a ladle, and his name was Aiken Drum.

And his hair was made of spaghetti, spaghetti, spaghetti,
His hair was made of spaghetti, and his name was Aiken Drum.

And his eyes were made of meatballs, meatballs, meatballs,
His eyes were made of meatballs, and his name was Aiken Drum.

Chorus

And he played upon a ladle, a ladle, a ladle,
He played upon a ladle, and his name was Aiken Drum.

And his nose was made of cream cheese, cream cheese,
cream cheese,
His nose was made of cream cheese, and his name was
Aiken Drum.

And his mouth was made of pizza, pizza, pizza,
His mouth was made of pizza, and his name was Aiken Drum.

Chorus

And he played upon a ladle, a ladle, a ladle,
He played upon a ladle, and his name was Aiken Drum.

There was a man lived in the moon, in the moon, in the moon,
There was a man lived in the moon, and his name was Aiken Drum.

Library Storytime Song

(sung to the tune of "I've Been Workin' on the Railroad")

I came to my storytime
(Sway from side to side throughout and point to self)
At the library today,
I came to my storytime *(Point to self)*
To sing, and laugh, and play.
I listened to some picture books,
Sang songs, said some rhymes,
I hope I can come back again,

Because I had a very good time!
I want to come back, *(Clap!)*
I want to come back, *(Clap!)*
I want to come back to storytime!
I want to come back, *(Clap!)*
I want to come back, *(Clap!)*
To my storytime!
(Spoken) See you soon! *(Wave goodbye)*

Rhymes

Astronauts

Traveling through space with a zip, zip, zip,
(Children "zip" their hands like a spaceship flying through space)
Is a little spaceman in his little spaceship.
Around the moon, past Jupiter and Mars, *(Make a circle with hand)*
Twisting and turning in a sea of stars. *(Twist and turn hands)*
Please pick me up for a starry ride, *(Clasp hands as if begging)*
We'll be astronaut buddies side by side.
(Hold up two fingers side by side)

Star Light, Star Bright

Star light, star bright, *(Point to stars)*
First star I see tonight. *(Shield eyes with hand as if looking)*
I wish I may, I wish I might, *(Point to self)*
Have this wish I wish tonight. *(Point to heart)*

Mister Moon

(can also be sung to the tune of "Mister Sun")
Oh, Mister Moon, Moon, *(Make a circle with hands)*
Bright and shiny moon,
Won't you please shine down on me?
(Move hands from high to low)
Oh, Mister Moon, Moon,
Bright and shiny moon,
Won't you please set me fancy free?
I'd like to linger, but I've got to run,
Mama's callin',
"Baby, get your homework done!"
Oh, Mister Moon, Moon, *(Make a round circle with hands)*
Bright and shiny moon,
Won't you please shine down on,
(Move hands from high to low position)
Talk about your shine on,
Please shine down on me!
Oh yeah!