

Night Skies and Outer Space

Presenter Tip Sheet

About This Storytime

This should be a popular storytime, as children are fascinated with night skies, stars, and pondering what might be in outer space. You could also invite children to wear their pajamas and turn this into a bedtime storytime.

Books

For books to share in this storytime, pick three from the list below, or choose other books in your collection that reflect the theme and are developmentally appropriate for fours and fives. Always share your longest book first. For your second, try to choose a participatory book that engages the children and ask the caregivers to join in. For the third and last story, share a book told through the use of a flannel board or magnetic board, or use a prop or other visual. The examples provided in the storytime program fit these guidelines.

Book Suggestions:

- *Astronaut Piggy Wiggy*, by Christyan and Diane Fox (Chronicle, 2002)
- *Goodnight Moon*, by Margaret Wise Brown (HarperCollins, 2005)
- *Here Come the Aliens!* by Colin McNaughton (Candlewick, 2005)
- *Hush, Little Alien*, by Daniel Kirk (Disney-Hyperion, 2001)
- *I Want to Be an Astronaut*, by Byron Barton (HarperCollins, 1992)
- *Kitten's First Full Moon*, by Kevin Henkes (Greenwillow, 2004)
- *Mousetronaut*, by Mark Kelly (Simon & Schuster, 2012)
- *Papa, Please Get the Moon for Me*, by Eric Carle (Simon & Schuster, 1991)
- *Roaring Rockets*, by Tony Mitton (Kingfisher, 2000)
- *When You Wish Upon a Star*, by Judy Collins (Imagine, 2011)
- *Zoom, Zoom, Zoom, I'm Off to the Moon*, by Dan Yaccarino (Scholastic, 1997)

Songs

This storytime includes five songs. The same opening song and closing song should be used each week if you are holding a series of storytime programs. Always provide some type of movement or motions to accompany each song. Using recorded music during the storytime is fine, but try to sing some songs with a live voice so that children can hear the words and the sounds making up each word. The Very Ready Reading Program includes CDs with all the songs in the storytimes, recorded at an appropriate tempo for this age group. Track numbers for each recording are provided in the songlist below and on the storytime program card.

Songs for This Storytime:

- Opening Song: "Moving Hands" (sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell") 🎧 2.08 🎵 2.09
- "On My Spaceship" (sung to the tune of "Bumping Up and Down in My Little Red Wagon") 🎧 2.12
- "Aiken Drum" 🎧 1.01
- "When You Wish Upon a Star" 🎧 2.25
- Closing Song: "Library Storytime Song" (sung to the tune of "I've Been Workin' on the Railroad") 🎧 2.01 🎵 2.02

Alternate Songs:

- "Mr. Moon" by Schiller Educational Resources, *Bountiful Earth*. Schiller Educational Resources, LLC, 2005.
- "This Starry Night" by Jessica Harper, *40 Winks*. Alacazam, 1998.
- "Milky Way" by Bill Harley, *Down in the Backpack*. Round River, 1995.
- "Blast Off" by SteveSongs, *On a Flying Guitar*. Music Design. 2000.
- "An Adventure in Space" by Greg and Steve, *On the Move with Greg and Steve*. Youngheart Music, 1983.

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Rhymes

This storytime includes three rhymes. The rhymes used in these storytimes have motions that are appropriate for fours and fives with developing fine motor skills.

Rhymes for This Storytime:

- “Astronauts”
- “Star Light, Star Bright”
- “Mister Moon”

Activities

This storytime includes an optional theme-related activity, to be completed after the closing song. Below are three to choose from. The activity you choose might depend on the size or predominant age of your audience, the amount of time you have to prepare, your space or environment, and the materials needed. The activities are designed with safety and the attention spans and fine motor abilities of fours and fives in mind. However, always keep in mind and remind caregivers: **Any time an activity involves materials such as paint, sand, string, or small pieces, close adult supervision is required.** Although each activity has a learning aspect, the emphasis should be on having fun!

Activity Suggestions:

Cloudy Night Skies. Cover a table with blue or black bulletin board paper. Provide a non-menthol brand shaving cream and invite the children to use it to create a night sky on the paper.

Night Dances. Play lullaby music and have children dance to it with streamers.

Moon Puzzles. Download and print the Moon Puzzle Template for each child from www.upstartpromotions.com/upstart/pages/reproducibles on card stock or construction paper. Have children cut out the moon shape and cut on the lines to make puzzle pieces. They can then assemble their puzzles and place them in baggies to take home.



Early Literacy Tips

Throughout each storytime program, you'll find yellow boxes that feature early literacy tips. As you present your program, share these tips with parents and caregivers to help promote the **7 Days • 7 Ways** principles. The tips are designed to easily be infused into the storytime without interrupting the natural flow of the program for children. The Caregiver Tip Sheets you will hand out at the end of each program reiterate the literacy tips you shared during the storytime.