

## Gathering Circle:

Discuss the planets, moon, and stars. Describe each planet. Explain how the earth turns. Describe gravity. Discuss space shuttles and astronauts.



### Read:

Draw Me a Star by Eric Carle

The Night Sky by Alice Pennick

The Berenstain Bears on the Moon by Stan and Jan Berenstain

Our Stars by Anne Rockwell

### Sing:

#### 5 Brave Astronauts

5 Brave astronauts floated into space. (move hand up in the air)

The first one disappeared without a trace. (hide thumb)

The second one somersaulted past the moon. (hide pinky)

The third one entered the atmosphere too soon. (hide ring finger)

The fourth one took off counting ten to zero. (hide middle finger)

And the fifth one landed safely like a hero. (Bring hand down to ground).

Then WOOSH when the fuel and out went the lights.

And the 5 brave astronauts went on another flight!

### Let's Move:

**Astronaut training.** Let the children learn what it is like to walk like an astronaut on a giant air mattress!

### Game:

**Shooting Stars.** Toss socks or aluminum foil balls into buckets.

### Math & Manipulatives:

**The planets.** Precut different sizes of stars or planets and show the children how to put them in order of largest to smallest, smallest to largest. Add index cards with the names of the planets and line up to correct planet. Make a sample so children can easily match.

## Fine Motor/Writing:

**Star and moon letter match.** Using index cards, draw 1 large star on 26 cards. Then draw 1 moon shape on another 26 cards. Make uppercase letters on the stars and lowercase letters on the moon shapes. Encourage children to match the uppercase letters to the lowercase letters.

### Explore:

**Lifesize spaceship.** Use large refrigerator or appliance boxes from hardware store. Wrap it in aluminum foil (dollar store) and add shiny star stickers (discount store, learning store).

### Create:

**Star stencils.** Tape star shapes to paper. Paint over the stars and onto the paper. When dry, remove the stars and reveal beautiful star shapes.

**Painted Planets.** Provide styrofoam balls and paint. The children can copy other planets that you have prepared as samples or they can create their own. What would they name their own planet? When dry, hang from the ceiling.

### Table Time Learning:

**Learning sheet.**

### Sensory:

**Moon dust.** Pour flour into the table. Tell the children that it is the moon's surface (moon dust!). Drop or toss a rock into the table to make a crater. Compare to pictures of the moon's surface.

### Taste:

**Star sandwiches.** Use a star cookie cutter to cut cheese, bologna, and bread into star shapes.