

# Peach Class Activity Ideas

**Week commencing 23 March 2020**

**This month, we are learning all about Space. Please find this month's home-school learning activities below. These activities mirror and extend the learning opportunities the children will engage with at nursery until the end of the Spring Term.**

There are some great online resources that we access via Safeshare.tv as this platform has a content filter for children under 5 years of age. Although it uses YouTube as a source for short videos and clips, it cleans up the videos and removes all advertisements. It also allows us to edit the videos so the children only view the content relevant to enhance our chosen topic.

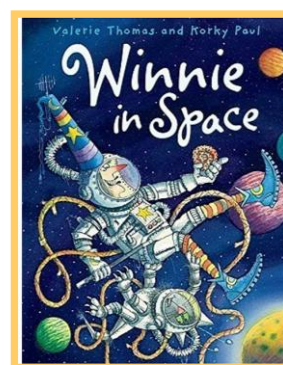
## Winnie in Space by Valerie Thomas

Read the story and discuss the main characters and events. Ask open-ended questions such as "How did Winnie and Wilbur get to space?", "What/who did they see/meet there?" and let your child retell the story in their own words using the pictures as a prompt

Other books you can read are 'Aliens Love Underwear', 'The Darkest Dark' or factual books (e.g. Usborne books) showing pictures of space, spaceships, astronauts, planets and the Solar System.

You can also listen to this story being read by following the YouTube Link below:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zs\\_FNfURJmA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zs_FNfURJmA)



*Please be strongly advised that this is a direct YouTube link and you are responsible for any subsequent content that may appear around the video. A full screen view often minimises peripheral content, but adverts may still pop up along the bottom of the screen.*

## Star Constellations

Using a hole punch, make holes in a sheet of black paper/card and then thread a string through the holes to create your own constellations. Make up names for the constellations. Hang them in the room and talk about them at bedtime, before going to sleep.



## Space Number Centre

Explore various space related objects such as stars, planets, meteorites and satellites. You can:

- count the items
- compare quantities (which group has more / less)
- arrange pictures of these objects according to their size/length
- talk about their colour
- guess how many items there are just by looking at them.

## Number Stars

Write numbers on stars (easily made out of yellow card or paper), turn them upside down and ask your child to turn them over and say the number that they can see.

You can hide the stars in sand or rice (you can make black rice using black food colouring /dye to make it look like the night sky) or flour (on a baking tray) to also include an element of sensory play.

## Solar System Model

You can have great fun making your own model of the Solar System as follows:

- Make the planets (and sun) by scrunching up old newspaper into balls and securing them with paper tape / masking tape.
- Look at a picture of the Solar System for relative size of the planets and sun to each other. This is a great conversation starter about sizes and whether you need to make a smaller or larger ball (depending on the planet).
- Mix coloured paint with PVA glue and paint each planet accordingly by referring to your chosen picture of the planets and Sun.



Using your model you can talk about and demonstrate how the Earth goes around the Sun and how it causes the change of seasons. You can also talk about how the Earth's rotation on its axis causes day and night.

You can also make a model using papier mache and balloons of varying sizes. The papier mache recipe is super easy and is a simple mix of flour and water!



## Cutting Out Planets

Print out images of the planets and use children's scissors to cut out around the planets. If your child is not yet able to cut around a shape or on a line, please encourage them to snip around the shapes. We have provided a simple template but would encourage you to find old magazines (e.g. National Geographic) that may have additional images of planets and the sun.

## Building Rockets

We would like you to encourage your child to design their own spaceship to catch a star in space. You can use sequins, buttons, coloured matchsticks, junk modelling or other creative materials you may have at home in order to simultaneously work on their creativity, fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. Please do ask your child questions about Space whilst working together to make your rockets.



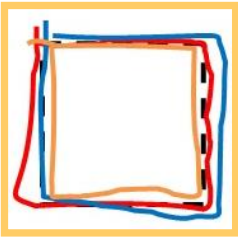
## **Space Songs**

We have been learning a range of songs, which you are able to access via YouTube:

You are able to learn these songs with your child by following the YouTube links below:

- Zoom Zoom Zoom: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEHBrmZxAf8>
- The Solar System Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2prtmPEjOc>
- Planet Song for kids: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qtO29mrLZo>
- Eight planets and More: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WApvQ8yp5WE>
- Planet Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGSbf5GUWO8>

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## **Rainbow Drawing**

Using a tripod grip (three fingers) encourage the children to trace/trace around/over various lines, shapes or letters using colourful crayons to make it look like a rainbow. They will need to do this several times. You can also use tracing paper (or greaseproof paper) and have the children trace over them several times to create a rainbow 'drawing'.

## **Listening to Environmental Sounds**

Listen to the varied and interesting sounds in the environment around you (washing machine, boiling kettle, keys in the door, vacuum cleaner, popping toaster, food timer etc.) or sounds outside of your house (cars, planes, birds, lawnmower, aeroplanes, animals etc) and name them.



Again – there are some great games on YouTube. These videos can be played on a minimised screen (no images, just sound) as they are listening games. You could watch them before and make note of what each sound is:

- Listening Game (mixed sounds): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h0Kp\\_J9kvNM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h0Kp_J9kvNM)
- Listening Game (mixed sounds): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGRKZ-tctvM>
- Guess The Sound (20 sounds): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1m4h79JZso>
- Guess The Sound (20 sounds): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTNL3WXEexA>

There are plenty of videos in both the series above so you can explore the additional videos in the same series.

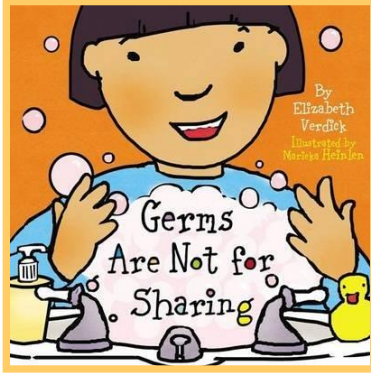
More specific sounds:

- Zoo Animals: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JA2yR8ZMzc> This video is connected to the book 'Dear Zoo' and shows an image of the animal that is making the sound after about 5-7 seconds. We think you will find some of the sounds most intriguing!

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## **The PANTS Rule - Pantosaurus**

This month, the children were also introduced to *Pantosaurus* - a friendly dinosaur who teaches children important messages, like the 'PANTS Rule', in a simple and child-appropriate way. The PANTS rule teaches children that "privates are private" and "no means no" and that their body belongs to them. More information (including the Pantosaurus song that your child can sing along to) can be found by visiting the NSPCC web site at <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/underwear-rule/>



### **Germes Are Not For Sharing**

We read this story to the children regularly, just to remind them why we need to wash our hands. We would encourage you to purchase a copy of the book and read it with your child, making the story your own.

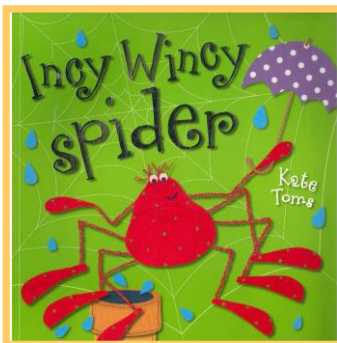
As with most stories these days, it can also be found on YouTube:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCq3Ft\\_s-5s&list=TLPQMTcwMzlwMjCI9Sc7scnsUQ&index=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCq3Ft_s-5s&list=TLPQMTcwMzlwMjCI9Sc7scnsUQ&index=1)

To bring the story to life and to illustrate the importance of washing hands (for getting rid of germs) you can do a science experiment with water, black pepper and soap to show your child how to wash germs off. We recommend pretending that the black pepper is the 'germs'.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ho0o7H6dXSU>

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### **Incy Wincy Spider**

This story has become integral in our teaching the children about a Growth Mindset. We read this story and talk to the children about perseverance and having a real 'can do' attitude. We talk about the importance of trying again and again when working towards or trying to do something.

We read this story to the children to talk about persistence, achievement, can do attitude.

### **Cookie and Star Cookies**

Using your favourite biscuit / shortbread / cookie recipe you can:

- Bake star shaped cookies of differing size and pile them up / lay them out according to size.
- Bake circular biscuits and decorate them like the different planets.
- Roll the dough into snakes and bake your child's name.
- Make rocket biscuits
- Be creative and let your child make the cookies of his/ her choice but challenge them to make the shape without any tools.



### **Home Learning Journal**

We hope that you have a fantastic time doing the activities. Please can you also make a small scrapbook of the activities, making notes of anything that your child may say and do whilst working on the activities. We would love for you to print off and include photos of the children 'in action' doing the activities.

# ***Happy Learning!***