



# Willow Class Activity Ideas



**Week commencing 23 March 2020**

**Our topic is Space and the home learning activities are detailed below. These activities mirror and extend the learning opportunities the children would engage with at nursery this week.**

There are some great online resources that we access via Safeshare.tv as this website 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.

## **The Way Back Home by Oliver Jeffers**

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



Children can watch and listen to this story being read by clicking on the YouTube Link below:

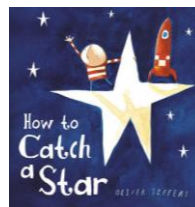
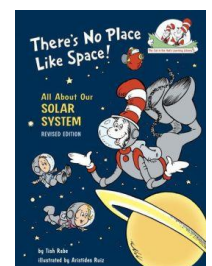
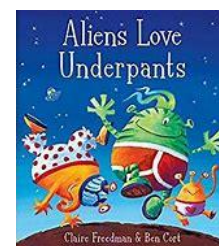
- Cbeebies Bedtime stories: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4nS8w-oCDac>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbyUrbOX5iU>

*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.*



## **Other books related to our space topic you can read are:**

- 'Aliens Love Underpants' by Claire Freedman & Ben Cort
- 'There's no place like space' by Tish Rabe
- 'How to catch a star' by Oliver Jeffers
- 'Orion and the Dark' by Emma Yartlett
- 'Questions and Answers' Usborne Space Encyclopaedia



## **Home-made Moon Sand**

The children make their own moon sand using coloured sand, cornflour and water, just follow these simple instructions. Encourage your child to describe the textures and what they observe as they do this activity.

### **You will need:**

- 2 cups of sand (you can use coloured sand or add food colouring if you wish)

- 1 cup of cornflour
- Half cup of water



**Method:**

Mix all the ingredients together using your hands and a wooden spoon. If the sand is a little dry add a small amount of water until you get the right consistency. Once ready you can add toys and let you child have fun exploring.

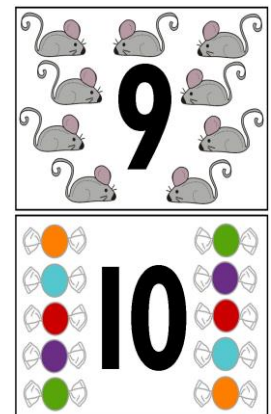


**2D Space Rockets**

The children make their own space rockets using templates and 2D shapes (see attached Twinkl worksheet). Parents can draw the shapes onto paper for children can colour them and cut them out. Challenge the children to make their own spaceships using their imagination and shapes.

**Numbers of the week: 9 and 10**

Encourage the children to play and learn numbers and simple mathematical concepts by using number flashcards, using playdough to create numbers, and playing matching games to quantity e.g. 9 socks for number 9, 10 toes for number 10 etc. (See attached Twinkl worksheet).

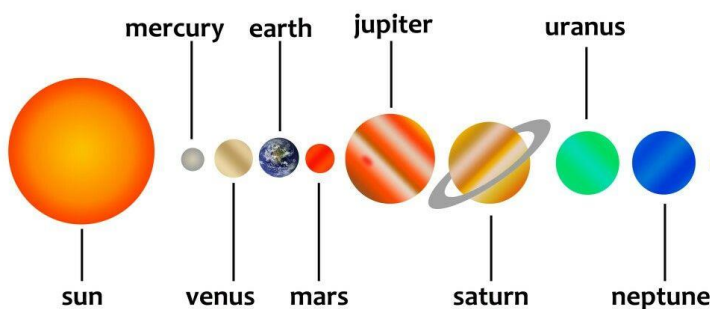


Write numbers on stars (easily made out of yellow card or paper), turn them upside down and ask your child to turn them over and say the number they can see. You can also use any other items you have at home to support counting and number recognition. Do also use the nine planets (although Pluto is considered a dwarf planet), and the Sun (as together they make ten), to support counting and number recognition too.

**Solar System Model**

You and your child can have great fun making your own model of the Solar System.

- Look at a picture of the solar system and discuss the size of the planets and sun in relation to each other.
- Scrunch old newspaper into balls and secure them with Sellotape or masking tape to make planets and the sun.
- Mix coloured paint with PVA glue and paint each planet using the image shown as a colour guide.



Once your child has made their solar system model talk about and demonstrate how the Earth goes around the Sun and how it causes the change between day and night and the different seasons.

## My Favourite Planet

Have a discussion with your child about the planets and their different colours, textures, sizes and characteristics and ask your child to name their favourite.

## Paper Mache Recipe

You can also make the sun and planets using homemade paper mache and balloons of varying sizes. Paper mache is very easy to create and uses only flour, water, salt and some glue.

Blow a balloon to the size required and use a paintbrush to add to the mixture on both sides of the newspaper and paste onto the balloon as required. Allow to dry completely and pop the balloon carefully to remove it. Your child can then paint the planet to their desired colour.

### **Paper Mache Paste Recipe:**

1 part flour (1/2 cup)

2 parts water (1 cup)

Teaspoon of salt  
(to prevent mold, especially in humid climates!)

A few generous squeezes of white glue.

Mix it all up and use. It can be stored in an airtight container in the fridge for a couple of days.



## 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 any other creative materials you may have at home. This activity is great for your child to simultaneously work on their creativity, fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. Please do ask the children questions about space whilst working together to make your rockets.

## Space Songs

Please view and learn these songs with your child related to our topic. The links are listed 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>

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



## **Letters of the week: G and O**

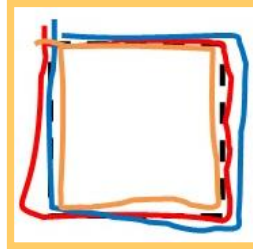
### **(And revisit all the letters learnt so far: s, a, t, l, p, n, d, m)**

Using a tripod grip (three fingers) encourage your child to trace over the above letters using various mark making tools. Please talk and support your children with proper letter formation and allow them also to do this independently.

### **Fine Motor Skills – Handwriting Practice with Shaving Cream (see attached Twinkl worksheet)**

For this activity you will need:

- A tray
- A bottle of shaving cream
- Letter cards
- Popsicle sticks
- Kitchen towel



Method:

1. Spray some shaving cream on a large tray and spread it out with a popsicle stick so it forms a layer.
2. Give your child a letter card and ask them to trace the letter in the shaving cream using the popsicle stick.
3. Repeat this process so your child has enough time to practice each letter.

### **Listening to Environmental Sounds**

Listen to the varied and interesting sounds in the environment around you. Examples include the washing machine, boiling kettle, keys in the door, vacuum cleaner, popping toaster, food timer, shower, doors closing etc). You should also ask your child to listen for the sounds outside including birds, squirrels, leaves rustling and cars and to try and name them.



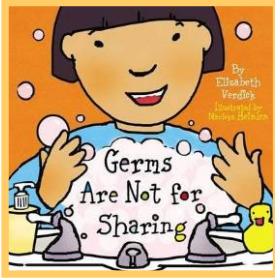
There are some useful games on YouTube and these videos can be played on a minimised screen (no images, just sound) as they are listening games.

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 the Listening Game and Guess The Sound series.

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### **Germ's Are Not For Sharing**

We read this story to the children regularly to remind them why we need to wash our hands. You can purchase a copy of the book and read it with your child, making the story your own. It can also be found on YouTube:

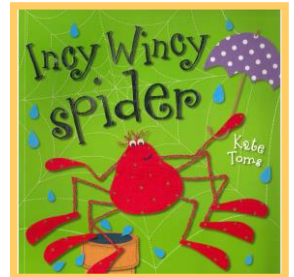
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCq3Ft\\_s-5s&list=TLPQMTcwMzlwMjCI9Sc7scnsUQ&index=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCq3Ft_s-5s&list=TLPQMTcwMzlwMjCI9Sc7scnsUQ&index=1)

To bring the story to life and to illustrate the importance of washing hands to 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'. Please watch this video for further instructions <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 something and trying to achieve something. Please read this to your children and discuss it.



### **Cookie and Star Cookies**

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



- Bake star shaped cookies of differing size and pile them up or lay them out according to size.
- Bake circular biscuits and decorate them as if they were different planets.
- Roll the dough into snakes and imprint your child's name.
- Make rocket shaped biscuits.
- Be creative and let your child make the cookies of their choice but let the challenge be for the children to make the shapes without using any tools.

### **Home Learning Journal**

We hope that you and your child have a fantastic time doing the activities. Please do make a small scrapbook of the activities making notes of anything that your child may say and do whilst completing them and learning through play.

### **30 Day Lego Challenge**


Lego is a great way for your child to use their imagination and creativity and to practise their fine motor skills.

We have found a Lego Challenge and attached it overleaf for your child to explore

***Happy Learning!***  
***From the Willow Team***

# 30 Day LEGO Challenge

Follow the instructions for each day. The only rule is to have fun and use your imagination!

		Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	
		You were hired by an amusement park to create a new roller coaster.	NASA needs you to build a new rocket.	Your parents want to build a new home and they want you to build it.	Hollywood hires you to build a movie set for a new Star Wars movie.	
Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	
You enter a contest to build the world's tallest tower. Will you win?	You are stuck on Mars and need to build a new ship to get home.	Ford hires you to create the toughest pick up truck in the world.	You and 4 friends are stranded on an island. Build a boat to find a way home.	Captain Hook needs a new pirate ship and wants you to build it.	You and your friends decide to build a tree house.	
Day 11	Day 12	Day 13	Day 14	Day 15	Day 16	
Prince Charming hires you to build a castle for him & Cinderella.	Dr. Who hires you to build a new TARDIS.	You are asked by the President to build a new monument to George Washington.	Mr. Hilton hires you to build a new hotel.	There is a circus in town. Build a place for the performance.	Help your fellow pioneers build a wagon to make it across the country.	
Day 17	Day 18	Day 19	Day 20	Day 21	Day 22	
Build the fastest car around and join the big car race.	Do you wanna build a snowman? Get in the winter mood and build a snow scene.	The city wants you to build a bridge to connect one side of the town to the other.	Pizza party! It is up to you to make a pizza for all the guests.	You are hired to build a brand new hospital.	The fence is broke and the dog keeps escaping. Build one he can't get out of.	
Day 23	Day 24	Day 25	Day 26	Day 27	Day 28	
You are now in medieval times. You are commissioned to build a jousting arena.	The local bank keeps getting robbed. Build a safe no one can crack.	Design and build your dream bedroom.	You are elected ruler. Build a flag for your land.	Aliens are invading and you need to build a war robot to defeat them.	The aliens have taken over. They are impressed by your robot. They want you build one for them.	
Day 29	Day 30					
You are hired to build a house entirely out of yellow Legos.	There is blizzard. You will need to build a snowmobile.					
						What was your favorite day?