

For Space Week, the learners could celebrate in a cross-curricular way.

Use an area in the classroom to display all of the space week vocabulary, story books, art work etc.

Use all opportunities throughout the day to refer to the display, vocabulary etc. For example mimic a spaceship launch countdown as the timer for the class to get into their spots when lining up.

To begin the week, use song to recap the names of the planets. When learners are familiar with the planet names and features, facilitate a whole class art project. In groups learners can work together to make some paper mâché planets. This will be worked on over the week. When it is finished it will be painted and put on display in the main school hall for all classes to see.

Host a bingo session for Infants with fun space related spot prizes.



Introduce the learners to new songs/ rhymes/poems relating to space.

[Space-Themed Counting Rhyme](#), [Astronaut and Rocket Ship](#), [Five Little Men in a Flying Saucer](#), [If You Blast into Space Today](#), [Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star](#), and [Zoom Zoom Zoom](#). (from [Twinkl](#)) Discuss and encourage them to draw pictures.

Whole Week Plans for Junior Classes

Monday: [Design a Martian](#). Examine images of Mars. Design in a 3-d form. Early finishers: Design the landscape they would live on.

Tuesday: Shadows: Free play with shadows at 10 am, 12 noon and 2pm. Note the shape and size differences in the shadows. Discuss the difference throughout the day.

Wednesday: [Lots and lots of stars](#). The learners investigate stars and try to guess how many stars are in the universe. They create pictures of a starry night using paint and toothbrushes to create copious amounts of stars. Discuss.

Thursday: Creating Alien Slime: by mixing fragranced shampoo or conditioner and cornflour together to create a consistency that is neither a solid or liquid.

Friday: Rockets: Engage with a picture of a rocket. Explore a variety of materials and plan a design to make a rocket. Have different materials on each table to create the different rockets. Learners check to see if the rockets work, explore changing forces and show their creations to the rest of the class.



Read [My Little Book of Space](#) by Peter Grego. Use Aistear Stations to include a roleplay area for the International Space Station, plan your rocket with playdough, create a rocket with junk art construction and make space passports in the writing station.

Roleplay area roles: scientist, astronaut, alien and news reporter.

Playdough planning: size, shape, colour and functions.

Build a rocket out of material that is hard/soft, light/heavy, floats/sinks or is waterproof.

Passport station: name, address, photo, cover, flag, country (or planet!) of origin. Suggested template from [Twinkl](#) (see also Page [3 from the ISS Primary Education Kit](#)).

Monday: Stars: Focus on the sky today and stars by creating telescopes and constellations from match sticks and playdough.

Tuesday: Aliens: Create Martians using clay and junk art. Design ufos for the Martians. In English create a fact file of the aliens.

Wednesday: Galaxy in a bottle: View a video of the actual size of space and design a galaxy. What planets would be there? Who would live there? Make galaxies in bottles using glitter, water, food colouring, shaving foam and baby oil (and tape the lid shut!!) to create a sensory experience.

Thursday: Planet Earth in Space. Use the book [Here We Are](#) by Oliver Jeffers, to write their own notes and guides for how to live on Earth.

Friday: Rocket-making using the [balloon rocket on a string experiment](#) or the [rocket launching experiment](#). Race or see whose rocket launches the furthest!

Teachers from the 'Teaching Space in Junior Classes with ESERO' were asked to create Space Week Plans.



Thank you to contributors Marese Corcoran, Caoimhe Crowe, Carole Graham, Daniel Kelly and Eleanor McSweeney. Edited by Frances McCarthy BCO