

Blast off!

Many children love pretending to be astronauts in rockets zooming off into space. Use this interest, along with the rhyme on the poster, to extend their knowledge and stimulate further imaginative ideas

Activities across the curriculum

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Look at the children in the rocket on the poster. Where are they going? Go on an imaginary journey with two children in a rocket created from a teepee-shaped frame made from garden canes draped in grey fabric. Cut out windows and encourage the children to take turns to say what they can see through them.
- Explore the poster together and ask the children to listen while individual children describe their favourite aspect. Create a further challenge by turning this into a guessing game.

Literacy

- Look at the way the words are arranged on the poster. Ask the children to identify repeated word patterns at the start of each line and look for words that describe actions, such as 'streaking' and 'skimming'. Listen for rhyming words and identify their positions. Discuss why the words CRASH! BANG! CRASH! are in capitals.
- Share other space travel rhymes, such as 'Five Little Men in a Flying Saucer' and stories, such as *Whatever Next!* by Jill Murphy (Macmillan Children's Books).

Mathematics

- Read the rhyme together. Encourage the children to crouch down and count down slowly on their fingers, before shouting 'Blast off!', and then rise slowly upwards like a rocket.
- Give each child a small-world space vehicle to hold while saying the rhyme together, and encourage them to move their vehicles appropriately according to the positional language used in the rhyme, for example, 'rising up', 'streaking round', 'whizzing through', 'shooting to' and 'zooming way past'.

Understanding the World

- Develop the children's ICT skills by visiting www.scholastic.co.uk for an interactive version of the poster to use on your whiteboard or computer.
- Extend the children's knowledge of space and space travel by focusing on, and explaining the meaning of, related vocabulary in the rhyme, for example, rocket, moon, Milky Way, outer space, star, Mars, comet and sun. Provide a selection of appropriate books, posters and websites for the children to explore.

Physical Development

- As you read the rhyme, ask the children to identify the movement words used in each verse. Talk about the actions that the children could carry out while saying the rhyme, for example, rising up, shooting to – *shooting upwards with arms pointing over head*; streaking round – *running quickly around the room*; whizzing through – *weaving in and out of each other*; spinning round – *spinning round and round on the spot*; flashing searchlights – *opening and closing fingers in front*; zooming – *pointing downwards*; skimming round – *arms outwards, skimming and tilting*; tumbling past – *rocking arms up and down violently*; landing safely – *falling on floor and rolling over*; having fun – *sitting up and smiling*. Repeat the rhyme using your chosen actions.

Expressive Arts and Design

- Set up a role-play lunar landscape from white sheets draped over cushions. Create planets by covering balloons in papier mâché and painting them, then hang them above the area. Provide astronaut dressing-up clothes and create oxygen tanks from two clear plastic bottles taped together. Look at the poster for ideas



Using the poster

Set up a low display alongside a clear carpet space, and provide the children with resources to enjoy role-play space travel. Hang the poster as a centrepiece and surround it with the children's paintings and space-related pictures and posters.

about the appearance of larger resources and create them from recyclable materials, for example, build a rocket and space station using large packing cases.

- Look closely at the shapes and colours of the sun, moon, red and blue planets, stars and comet on the poster. Recreate them using a range of creative techniques, for example, foil or glitter crescent moons and stars, a painted paper-plate comet with Cellophane flames behind it, or a planet created by dropping blobs of brightly-coloured paint on to a circle of paper and twirling it in a salad spinner.

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