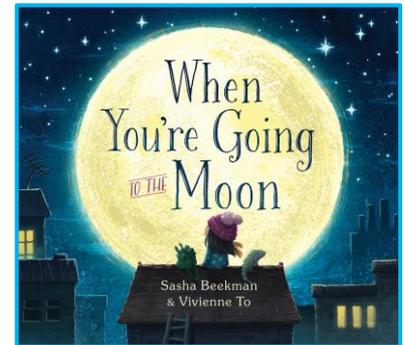


When You're Going to the Moon By *Sasha Beekman and Vivienne To*

There's a lot to do when you're planning a trip to the moon. There are essential supplies you simply must take. You need snacks. You need toys. Blankets, dancing shoes, your pet iguana!

When You're Going to the Moon is a fun and fabulous picture book about imagination, creativity and the magic of believing. It's a heartfelt story about dreaming your biggest dream and taking it to the stars.



Key Message for Parents | The Best Learning Happens in Nurturing Environments

You can support parents' understanding of how the relationship they have with their child can shape brain circuits, laying the foundation for later developmental outcomes, from academic performance to mental health and interpersonal skills. Some ideas to share with parents are:

- Healthy brain development is a result of consistent, caring relationships in stable, nurturing environments.
- Through a widening network of secure relationships, children develop confidence and feel respected and valued.
- Learning outcomes are most likely to be achieved when early childhood educators work in partnership with families.

Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world

As educators, we can help young children connect and participate with others by:

- providing play activities which foster curiosity and engagement
- communicating freely and respectfully with families
- engaging in shared decision making and trusting the relationships that are built together

Find booklists, tip sheets, nursery rhymes and activity and learning time sheets @ thelittlebigbookclub.com.au





Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their children.

Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

Welcome Song (or your preferred song)

Have the words available as a handout or written on a board or butcher's paper for the adults to read and join in.

Good Morning

Good morning to you

Good morning to you

Good morning everybody

and welcome to you!



Song

I'm A Little Astronaut

To the Tune: "I'm A Little Teapot"

I'm a little astronaut

Flying to the moon.

My rocket is ready,

We blast off soon.

I climb aboard

And close the hatch.

5-4-3-2-1, off we blast!

By Jean Warren





Before Reading

You could have a mystery box (or green bag) with some of the items that are in the book (e.g. yo-yo, paintbrush, coin, etc). Sing the song, "What is hiding in my box (bag), What is hiding in my box, What can it be? What can it be? What is hiding in my box?". Children can guess before things are pulled out. You could have the items wrapped so that they can be felt but not seen and pass around to everyone in the group.

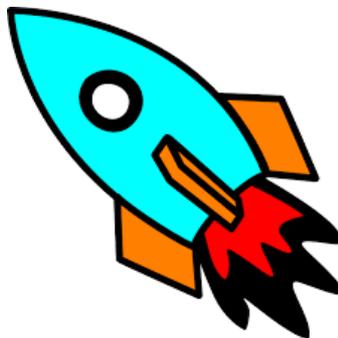
Return the items to a place where they can be seen and ask children what they think the story might be about from looking at the cover of the book. After listening to a few ideas, tell the group that 'Today's story is called When you're going to the Moon. It is written by Sasha Beekman and illustrated by Vivienne To. Let's find out if your ideas match those of the author.'

If you feel the group needs a bit of movement to be settled for the story, the following short rhyme may help. Children can pretend to climb into their rocket, blast off by shouting out 10, 9, 8, etc and fly around the space before coming back down to earth ready to listen to the story.

JUMP IN THE ROCKET

Jump in the rocket.
We blast off soon.
We're taking a trip
Up to the moon.
Up, up, we climb,
Up to the sky.
Isn't it fun,
To be able to fly!

Adapted Traditional



You could hold the book upside down and back to front. 'Now am I ready to start reading?' Concepts of print (e.g. understanding that books have parts such as a front and back cover, title page, and spine; that stories have a beginning, middle, and end; that text is read from left to right and from top to bottom, etc) is another important skill for young children to learn before they can begin to read independently. Usually you'll find that children of this age will love to correct you so that much fun and laughter can come from this activity.

When you are finally holding the book in the correct way (in English culture), you can begin by showing the cover and sharing the title, author and illustrator.

During Reading

Read through the book and stop to chat about the various things the young girl wants to take to the moon. You may want to ask the children 'Have you ever wanted to go to the moon? What would you take?' Take your guide from the children's responses as to how long you spend on each page. Alternatively, you could read right through the story and then go back to discuss things of interest. Do they know what a 'kazoo' is? Or an 'iguana'?

You may want to share some of the book's underlying ideas and themes with parents/carers who are present. The message beneath the words is superb. The book encourages children to believe in the unbelievable for as long as possible — to enjoy the power of imagination and to follow dreams wherever they may take you. The illustrations are a visual feast and show the power of pictures over words. The colours are bright, the characters are funky and the details are exquisite.



After Reading

Ask the group (adults, too) to stand up in a circle to sing and act out the following song. You could have the words written out so others can join in, too.

WE'RE FLYING TO THE MOON
Tune: 'The Farmer In The Dell'

We're flying to the moon.
We're going to blast off soon.
Grab your helmets and your suits.
We're flying to the moon.

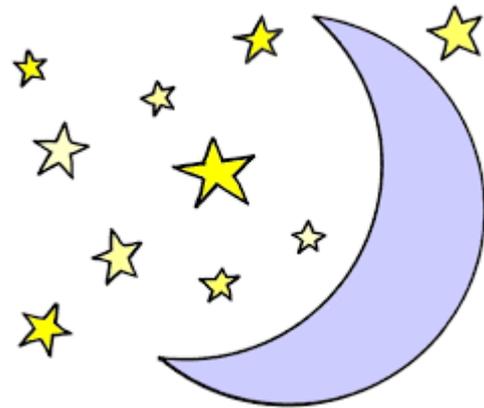
Did you feel the blast?
We're climbing up so fast.
Hang on tight, what a sight!
We're flying to the moon.

We're soaring through the air.
I think we're almost there.
Retro Rockets going off!
We've landed on the moon!

We climb down the stairs,
With our tanks of air.
We plant a flag, then grab some rocks
And take them back to earth.

We're flying oh so fast.
Then we're home at last.
What a flight, what a sight.
Flying to the moon!

By Jean Warren





Activity Time

Making a balloon rocket 3, 2, 1 BLASTOFF!

Use straws and balloons to create a mini rocket ship!

What you need

- Thick straws
- Balloons
- Scissors
- Colourful paper
- Pencils
- Sticky tape
- Coloured dots

What to do:

1. Put a balloon on the end of the straw. Secure with sticky tape so no air leaks out.
2. Decorate the straw
3. Blow into the straw to inflate the balloon (some children may need help with this as well as holding their finger over the bottom of the straw before blast off!)

This Activity is from: <https://10minutesofqualitytime.com/balloon-straw-rocket-kids/>

Extension Activities

Moon Rocks

Smashing moon rocks is a fine motor activity, so children are working on small muscle movements. While hitting the moon rocks with the hammer, they are practicing controlling their wrists and hands, while also making their muscles stronger!

How to Make Moon Rocks

- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup water
- whisk
- cotton balls
- grey paint or food coloring
- foil
- cookie sheet
- toy hammer

1. Whisk together the 1 cup of flour with the 1 cup of water.
2. Add in a small drop of paint to change the mixture to a grey color.
3. Dip cotton balls into the mixture and place them onto a cookie sheet lined with foil.
4. Place into an oven at 150 degrees Celsius for 45 minutes.

This Activity is from: <https://www.pre-kpages.com/moon-rocks-fine-motor-activity/>



BALLOON ROCKET!

Fun & easy activity



by Teaching Mama for Pre-K Pages



STEM FOCUS

Playing, exploring and asking lots of questions – that’s how children learn about themselves, about others and about the world around them. Why does the rocket take off when I take my finger off the straw? Why does the moon change shape at night? These moments are a great opportunity for children to learn new words and expand their vocabulary, by hearing and using words in context.

STEM is an approach to learning and development that integrates the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Through STEM, children learn to ask questions, to work together, to think creatively, to solve problems, to explore, to take calculated risks, to test solutions, to discover new ways of doing things.

Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. The Little Big Book Club suggests the following books to support learning in this area. If your library has copies, make them available for families to borrow or include them in your story time session.

An Activity Time for this book is available to download for FREE from our website. This is a great resource to share with families, you are welcome to print and distribute as necessary.

For some more stories to share, we recommend the following titles:

- **Blast Off!** by Shelly Unwin and Ben Wood
- **Stars** by Mary Lyn Ray and Marla Frazee
- **Kitten’s First Full Moon** by Kevin Henkes
- *Or try a range of non-fiction books about planets, stars and space travel*

Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child’s name in the place of ‘you’ as it develops a more personal relationship between yourself, the child and the family.

Sung to the tune of (Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush) or your choice.

Goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye (wave) say goodbye, say goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye to all our library friends (or) to our friend.....!