

# Astronomy for Toddlers

Astronomy themed activities for children 5 and under.

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## Activity Shelf

Many education styles, such as Montessori, utilize an activity shelf. Having an activity shelf with periodic themes is a great way to introduce new subjects to explore, including space!

Depicted in this example shelf is a 3D printed dimmable moon night light, GeoSafari rotating solar system, and a Jupiter pillow.

Note: The GeoSafari solar system comes with an accurate constellation piece that replaces the sun.

Idea: If you own a teepee and play campfire set, you can use the constellation attachment to recreate the night sky for your camping experience.



# Globe Spin

Babies under 1 year are learning motor skills. Spinning a globe is a method to practice these skills, while observing their home, planet Earth!

Note: If desired, globes of other planets may be purchased and used.

Note: Toddlers may find this entertaining also.





## Shooting Star

Sarah's Silks sells a bouncing shooting stars with which you can play catch with your toddler. This is a space themed way to keep them active and burn some energy.

Link to store:

<https://www.sarahssilks.com/products/skytails>



# Lunar Sandbox

Using light colored kinetic sand, place sand into a small shallow box. Place toy astronauts, flags, and lunar rovers for the child to explore the lunar surface through.

Tip: You may re-use the box you already own for the sensory bin, and store the unused media in 1 gallon Ziplock bags.



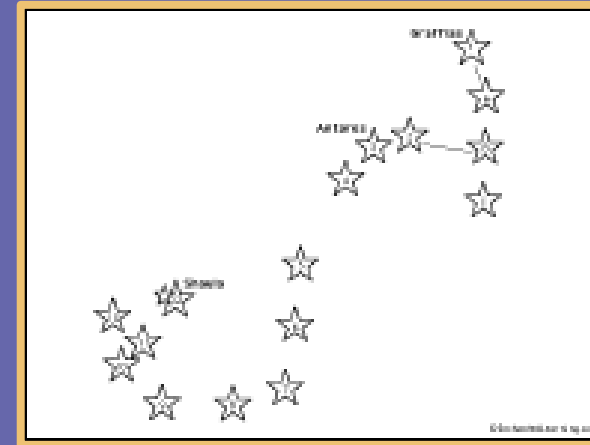
# Constellation Connect the Dots

For older toddlers, download or make constellation connect the dots sheets. You may find it effective to print 3-5 of the same constellation per lesson, in which they repeat and think about the name and any special facts associated to that constellation.

Example:

Print 5 Orion sheets, and talk about how he is a hunter and appears in the winter.

Scorpio appears in the summer, and is also known as Maui's hook (perfect for Disney's Moana fans)!



# Glow Stars

Glow-in-the-Dark stars can be hung in older children's bedrooms. To create an astronomy lesson, teach them some basic constellations or asterisms, such as the Big Dipper, then hang the stars together in those patterns. Seeing the glow-in-the-dark constellations each night will make them recognizable when viewing the night sky.

As a challenge, try to find the same constellations in the night sky.

Tip: Try to choose constellations that are bright and easy to see, such as Orion (appears in winter) and Scorpio (appears in summer).





## Moon Observing

When outside at night, point out the moon to your toddler. Let them repeat the word “moon” to you. Once they are acquainted, ask them, “where is the moon?”

Top Left: Moon through a telescope

Bottom Right: April’s Pink supermoon (07 April 2020)



# Astronomical Events

Astronomical events are a unique way to teach toddlers about space. If they see you are excited, they will be too. Some ideas include:

- Sit outside together and watch the lunar eclipse as the moon turns red. Ask them “where is the moon?” and “what color is the moon?”
- Go online to see when Starlink will pass your neighborhood, and watch the satellite train pass overhead.
- Watch scheduled rocket launches on NASA’s YouTube channel NASA LIVE.

