



## Space Explorers

### The ARP – Spring 1

#### Story Focus

**Text:** 'Ten Little Aliens' by Mike Brownlow & Simon Rickerty



**Key Vocabulary** (adapted to children's needs & abilities)

Aliens

Space

Spaceship

Flying

Number names and numerals one to ten

Planet names

#### Recommended Reads





## **Entry Point** – Junk modelling a rocket or spaceship with parents.

**Communication and Interaction:** Communication is a key focus in the ARP. We aim to equip our pupils with a range of strategies to ensure they can communicate with each other, family and others in society. We continue to use symbols, signs, gestures and words to help us to communicate. Pupils continue to practise with core boards to develop their communication skills with a view to understanding instructions, requests and making choices more independently.

**Activities:**

- With your child sing rhymes and songs such as Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star, Five Little Rockets, Five Little Men in a Flying Saucer ...
- Talk about the sky and what is beyond it. Look at the night sky and spot stars.
- During meals encourage your child to make choices/ requests.

**Key vocabulary:** *Core boards: more, help, stop, I, drink, eat, finish, feel, want*

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development:** Sharing and turn taking continue to be practised through play using shared interests. Core and choosing boards (sometimes with support) support pupils to express preferences for activities or equipment. Learning to identify the emotions of happy, sad, silly and angry are ongoing along with learning strategies to regulate ourselves.

**Activities:**

- Sharing preferred toys or simple games support your child in building sharing and turn taking skills e.g., building blocks/ Lego, simple board games, sharing food
- Continue to encourage your child to use core boards at home.
- Model the emotions of happy, sad and angry. Suggest ways or provide ideas on how to regulate i.e do you need a rest, a drink, a snack... Shall we go for a walk?

**Key vocabulary:** *kind, share, my turn, your turn, happy, sad, angry, rest*

**My Creativity: Music, Art, Drama**

Music and singing (action songs) continued to be used to encourage self-expression and aid communication. Different types of instruments will be explored with a view to making different sounds, loud, soft, high, low. Papier mâché will be used to make models and structures such as rockets and planets.

**Activities:**

- Sing and dance to favourite songs/ music
- Use old saucepans to make drums and tap with wooden spoons
- Make planets using balloons and then cover them in papier mâché.
- Act out favourite parts of a story.

**Key Vocabulary:** *glue, paper strips, mold, smooth.*

**My Physical World: PE/ Gross and Fine Motor Skills.**

We continue to practise our throwing & catching skills using balls and bean bags. As well as using our gross motor skills to draw large pictures/ mark making outside using chalks, we will also run and jump high like a rocket. Fine motor skills will be developed by making play dough planets, cutting out different shapes for planets (circles) or rockets (triangles, squares and rectangles)

**Activities:**

- Cut out shapes to make rockets and planets
- Use different sized balls to practise throwing and catching skills
- Continue to practise zipping up coats and/ or doing up buttons on cardigans or jackets.
- Use chalks to draw large rockets and planets- outside

**Key vocabulary:** *throw, catch, move, zoom, snip, cut, run, jump*



**Cognition, Learning and Engagement/ Early Development:** Sensory stories and story sacks containing props from our book continue to be used to develop the children's understanding along with role play. Describing the different aliens using adjectives such as strong, tall/ short, big/small will also be used to expand vocabulary. Action words (verbs) such as flying, bump, run and whizz will also help to deepen understanding and add fun to role play.

Number skills will be linked to the children's interests, our space topic and their abilities. Other areas of maths will include finding more & less, investigating the composition of numbers, naming shapes and match, sort and compare amounts.

**Activities:**

- Visit the library to find books about planets and space.
- Look at pictures of Aliens and count how many arms, eyes, heads etc. does an alien have?
- Use coloured shapes to make rockets- 3d shapes might include cylinders, cones or 2d shapes such as rectangles, squares and triangles

**My Independence: Self-Help, Life Skills, Cooking**

Once again working towards independence continues to be a priority both at school and at home. Putting on coats and jumpers will be practised along with shoes & socks. Using knives, forks and spoons whilst eating will be encouraged and practised. In our cooking sessions we will practise adding ingredients, mixing and stirring them together.

**Activities:**

- Continue to encourage self-reliance/ independence – trying/ having a go.
- Practise putting clothes on and taking them off - with lots of praise.
- Ask the child to help when preparing food. Our focus this half term will be mixing and stirring.

**Key vocabulary:** *help, try, tip, pour, mix, stir,*

**My World Around Me**

This half term we will explore the Earth and what its colours represent -land and seas. We will also look at its surrounding planets in space. The forces of push and pull will be explored and investigated. This will also include how astronauts move about in space.

**Activities:**

- When it is dark, observe the sky together with your child, see if you can spot the stars.
- Look at pictures of the Earth and the surrounding planets in our Solar System.
- Together watch short clips of rockets and spaceships
- When your child is out on their bikes or scooters explore riding down hills (carefully) – gravity

**Key vocabulary:** *Earth, space, stars, moon, sun, sky, planets, rockets, spaceships, astronauts*

## **Exit Point** – Children to sing the song 'Five Little Rockets Went Out One Day' to their parents.