

Additional Resources for Early Years Column – Space Science as Equity

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Tips to Get Started with Space Science Study with Young Children

- Listen for comments from children related to space science like, “Why is the moon out during the day?” Create a web of children’s ideas about objects in the sky.
- Read books about space science to check for interest, especially look for those representing diverse scientists (see book list below)
- Share a fascinating space fact, like how there is no weather on the moon.
- Identify a common misconception to explore it more deeply with a hands-on study (e.g., the moon’s phases are not actually caused by a shadow from Earth!)
- Invite a family or community member with ties to space science to visit your class.
- Share a super cool resource, like these new images of [Jupiter](#).

Children’s Books Featuring Diverse Scientists

- *Mission to Space*, by John Herrington, which features his own story as the first enrolled member of a Native American tribe to fly in space
- *A Computer Called Katherine*, by Suzanne Slade, which tells the awesome story of Katherine Johnson’s role as one of the first African American mathematicians to work for NASA as a part of the first mission to walk on the moon
- *Mae Among the Stars*, by Roda Amed, a book inspired by Mae Jemison’s story of becoming the first black woman to travel into space

Extensions

- Identify other interests from children, such as the Moon, and start a study from there
- Explore other wonderings that involve direct experiences, such as, “I wonder what will happen if we leave this chocolate (or ice, popsicle, marshmallow) out on the sidewalk on this sunny day?” Add timing tools like stopwatches to challenge older children to use minutes as part of their data collection.
- Check out the [IF/THEN Collection](#) for free resources highlighting female STEM professionals, and even invite someone to come speak to your class (search for more [here](#) too)!

Resources

A sample of online resources available to support educators in space science.

- [NASA](#) and others have started to focus more on inclusivity and addressing barriers to participation in STEM, including careers and experiences related to space science.
- Activity ideas and plans in [Science & Children](#), from [California Academy of Sciences](#), and from NASA’s [Jet Propulsion Lab](#)
- Field trips and [virtual](#) options at your local [planetarium](#) or science museum
- [STEM Tales](#), a new project funded by NSF that will explore reading books to young children from super cool places in space, on Earth, and in the sea.
- [Google Moon](#)