

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



**Rocket Ship, Solo
Trip**

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Illustrated by Scott Magoon

Preschool edition

Overview of Book

Rocket Ship is going on her first solo mission! What help will Ground Control provide? It is all so exciting, but how will she get home after the mission?

Genre: Picture/informational

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Rocket Ship, Solo Trip* to introduce in your classroom:

launch hypersonic
atmosphere mission

Each time you read the book, choose 2 or 3 words to highlight.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or the illustrations to help children gain an understanding of each word's meaning.

Use these new words throughout the day, reminding the children, "That's a word from our story!"

**Connecting with the
HighScope Curriculum**

COR Advantage

Approaches to Learning
Item B
(Problem solving with materials)

Social and Emotional
Development Item D
(Emotions)

Science & Technology
Item BB
(Observing and classifying)

Item EE
(Tools and technology)

Reading Tips

Read this slowly to allow the children to tune into the rhymes that make up the story. Encourage movement while reading. For example, have the children pretend to blast off, to float through space, twirl around Earth and to come in for a landing. Ask questions like, "Would you be scared in outer space?" Allow time for children's comments and ideas about what going on a rocket ship would/might be like. Talk about how far away space is. Make sure to let them know the book will be in the Book Area along with other space exploration books.

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. Each reading provides an opportunity to introduce new vocabulary words, pose open-ended questions, and engage children in activities that make the story "come alive."

Throughout the Routine

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

Gather old or broken small appliances and machines (VCR's, hairdryers, remotes, fans, etc) for the children to take apart at **Small Group Time**. Use real tools, magnets and scissors for the children to examine, disassemble and explore these items.

Play a "near and far" game at **Large Group Time**. Encourage the use of the whole room as you and the children move *far from* or *near to* people and areas in the classroom.

Around the Room

Highlight the book's content and build on the children's excitement in a variety of locations.

Add atlases and post maps in the **Book Area** and around the room. If you have a globe, place it where all can examine it and compare to the posted maps. Add more space related titles to the bookshelf.

Add magnifiers and binoculars to the **Toy Area**. Use magnifiers with shells, stones, leaves, to get close/near to items, and the binoculars to see things far away. Talk about this, include things from the book (moon, satellites for ex.)

Open-ended Questions

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These questions encourage children to explain why or how things happen, make predictions, or brainstorm possibilities rather than give one "right" answer.

Here are some questions you might ask for *Rocket Ship, Solo Trip*:

What would you do if you got to go to outer space?

In the story, the ship saw the Earth, the moon, stars and satellites. What else do you think is in outer space?

What do you think it's like to be on the Moon?

For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact
The Family Connection:

website—
www.famconn.org

Facebook—
@famconnsjc

phone—
574-237-9740

@ Home

Since many of the children in our county will have this book at home, use it as a way to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *Rocket Ship, Solo Trip* with their child. Here's a sample message you can send:

As you and your child read this together, try to imagine that you are on the rocket ship and are on this mission. Ask questions like, "What do we see? What do you think that is?" Float around the room as you read, pretend you are orbiting the moon or the Earth. Ask, "What's our mission?" Follow through on serious or even silly responses to this question. For example, the "mission" could be to get ready for bed or make a sandwich. Look carefully at the pictures and talk about satellites and other man-made things in space. Ask, "Would you want to go out there and explore?"