

LET'S GO TO THE MOON!

DISCOVERY PLAY ACTIVITIES WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different, and these are only suggested adaptations and activities. Do what works best for encouraging your child's independent exploration during this suggested play activity. Consult your pediatrician, physical therapist (PT), and/or occupational therapist (OT) first.



STEM Concept(s): Sequencing, Patterns

Help your child understand what computational thinking concepts scientists needed to understand to land on the Moon. Set outside on a clear night with some shapes and a flashlight to **create patterned sequences** that will get from Earth to the Moon and back!

STEM IDEAS/WORDS

- Shapes
- Pattern/Sequence
- Moon
- Earth
- Predict

MATERIALS

- Clear night sky
- Shapes (various blocks and/or household objects)
- Flashlight
- Board or tray for creating patterns on

OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

- *What comes next? Then?*
- *If you could build a rocket to the Moon out of anything, what would it be? Why? What steps are involved with building your rocket?*



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ENVIRONMENT

- If possible, limit background noise & distractions
- Use modified or flexible seating
- Place activity items on an anti-slip mat or in a container or tray
- Place objects within reach

MATERIALS

- Have child's assistive technology ready and available, including augmentative & alternative communication (AAC) device and/or power wheelchair
- Add additional material(s), such as magnets or Velcro, to flashlight and objects to make it easier to grasp, lift, or turn
- Use stabilizing mats or Velcro for lining up contrasting materials in patterns

INSTRUCTION

- Use a variety of methods of communication (e.g., sign language, gestures) to meaningfully engage children
- Use pictures and/or icons to signal next steps (see following card for an example) and/or each step of the sequence
- Provide prompts to help the child create a patterned sequence and help the child imitate



Follow your child's lead and interests. Enthusiastically ask your child questions about what they are doing and what they like.



Answer your child's questions. If you do not know the answer, work together with your child to discover the answer.



Encourage your child to participate in the activity as much as possible. Praise your child's efforts and successes.



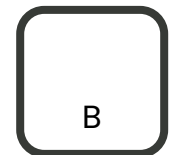
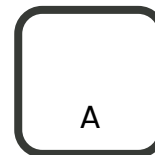
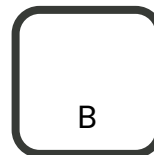
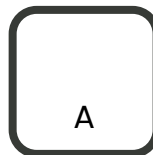
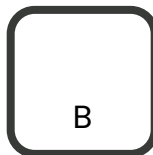
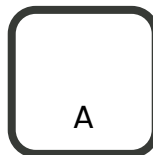
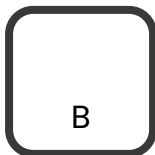
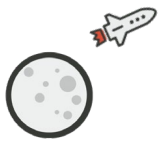
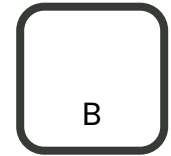
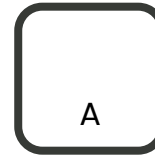
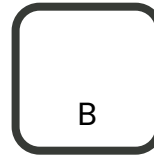
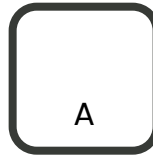
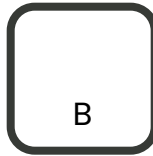
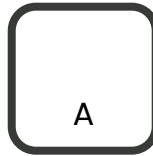
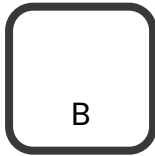
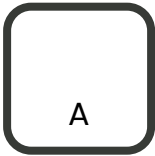
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VISUAL CUES: USE TO SIGNAL NEXT STEPS



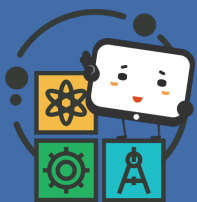
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ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY IDEAS

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- Observe the phases of the moon each night and document
- Design and build a rocket to travel to the Moon
- Check out these great books about the Moon:
 - *Moon! Earth's Best Friend* by Stacy McAnulty
 - *The Moon Seems to Change* by Franklyn M. Branley
 - *Space: Planets, Moons, Stars, and More!* by Joe Rhatigan

