



ASTRO GIRL

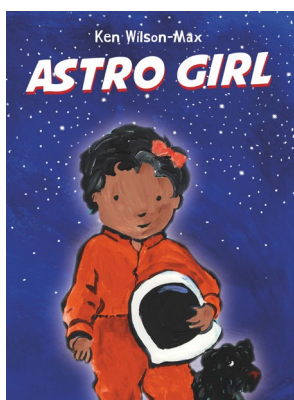
BOOKMARK FOR STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

DID YOU KNOW READING BOOKS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT STEM LEARNING?

Reading with older toddlers and preschoolers uses **PEER**:

- Use additional Prompts if needed,
- Evaluate and
- Expand your child's answers, and
- Repeat the prompts.

ABOUT THIS BOOK



Astro Girl is a book written and illustrated by Ken Wilson-Max. A young girl named Astrid imagines what it would be like to go to space and be an astronaut. What do you want to be when you grow up?

WHERE CAN I FIND THIS BOOK?

Search [YouTube](#), [BookShare](#), [Archive.org](#), and your local library.

ADAPTATIONS

STEMIE's tips for making adaptations to the storybook reading process

<https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/resource/a-guide-to-book-adaptations/>

Scan the QR code to download or view online.



Expanding | Science

Astro Girl

By Ken Wilson-Max

Complete a sentence



"Astrid's mother is an _____." (astronaut)

Recall



"What is gravity like in space?"

Open-ended questions



"How do astronauts travel in space?"

WH questions



"Where was Astrid's mother? What happens at centers like that one?"

Distancing questions



"What would you like about being an astronaut in space?"

STEM Words & Ideas to Explore

- Stars
- Spatial orientation





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ADAPTATIONS FOR STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different. Do what works best for encouraging your child's independent exploration during this suggested literacy activity. These are only suggested activity adaptations. Consider consulting your child's care team first.



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.

SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT, DEAF-BLINDNESS, OR MULTIPLE DISABILITIES:



Storybox:

Select corresponding items and place them in a container or a box. Items may include:

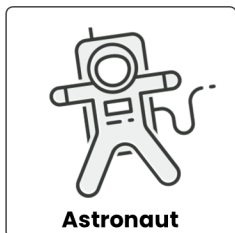
- Toy rocket
- Doll
- Ball
- Toy house

Image credit: HealthyRootsDolls.com

This adaptation can also be used to:

- Increase children's attention and engagement
- Support children with sensory challenges

SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF COMMUNICATION:



Pictures, Symbols, Signs, or Icons:

- Select pictures that correspond to items, objects, or animals in the book
- Add signs and icons to the story
- Use pictures along with a communication board to support STEM learning

This adaptation can also be used to:

- Increase children's attention and engagement
- Support children's learning
- Support children who are deaf or have a hearing impairment



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VISUAL CUES FOR STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

How To Use VISUAL CUES:

1. Print and cut out the images.
2. As you read, use tape or Velcro to attach the pictures to the corresponding pages in the book.

Check out STEMIE's tips for creating and using visual supports with

[A Guide to Visual Supports.](#)



Earth



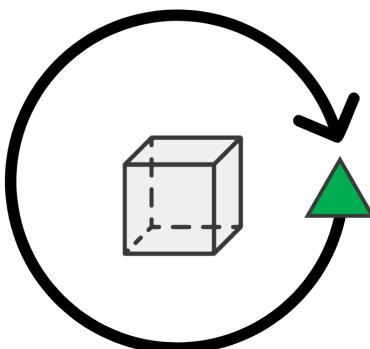
Stars



Astronaut



Asteroid



Around



Up



Down



Rocket



Need more visual cues?

Visit [STEMIE's Visual Cue Library.](#)



NOTICING THE NIGHT SKY

Description: While outside on a clear night, look for the Moon and different stars. Talk about **shape (sphere)** and **colors** of the **Moon (grey/grayish white)** and the **stars (white, yellow)**.

What My Child Is Learning!

Children learn best by interacting with people and objects. Introduce STEM words, ask questions, and encourage them to make connections between words and real-life experiences. This helps children develop fundamental critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

While stargazing, your child can begin to understand the basics of astronomy, such as identifying the **Moon** and **stars** and their **characteristics (shape, color)**.

Talk about **how many** stars can be seen. The human eye can see between 5,000 and 10,000 stars at night depending on weather and ground light.

OBSERVING THE MOON'S CHANGES



Description: Over several clear **nights**, look for the **Moon**. Talk about how the Moon looks like it has a **different shape each night**. This happens because the Moon moves around the Earth, which moves around the Sun.

What My Child Is Learning!

Children learn best by interacting with people and objects. Introduce STEM words, ask questions, and encourage them to make connections between words and real-life experiences. This helps children develop fundamental critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as math skills.

By looking at the Moon over several nights, your child is practicing observation skills and learning how to **describe** what they see. If they observe the Moon over two months, they may begin to recognize a **pattern** in the way the Moon looks different each night. Ask, "What do you think the **Moon** will look like tomorrow night?"



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ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY IDEAS:

- Build a solar system mobile. Find how to do it here: <https://kidsactivitiesblog.com/143016/solar-system-mobile-project/>
- Poke holes in a **black** sheet of paper then **shine a light** through to observe the '**stars**' and the **moon**. Ask:
 - Does the moon look the same every night?
 - Can you see stars in the daytime? Why not?
- Check out a planetarium near you: <https://www.go-astronomy.com/planetariums.htm>
 - Ask your child the following questions as you navigate the planetarium
 - What are you most excited about to see at the planetarium?
 - What are you curious to learn about space?
 - Encourage your child to document their visit to planetarium through drawing. You can provide the following prompts to enhance the child's creativity.
 - What is your favorite part of the planetarium?
 - What does your favorite planet look like?

