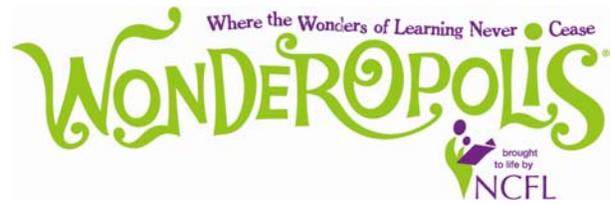


Space: The Final Frontier

Tips for Family Exploration



Unlimited imagination = unlimited possibilities

Regardless of national boundaries and cultural differences, children all over the world look up at the nighttime sky and wonder. They wonder what's out there. They wonder about the stars and planets. They wonder if there's anyone else out there. The only thing more infinite than the universe is the imagination of a child!

Use your children's natural curiosity about space to start wonderful discussions with them. Children are explorers at heart, so encourage them to let their imaginations run wild. What questions do they have? Take some time to find out the answers together.

Explore across generations

Try to involve the whole family. Grandparents, parents and children might be surprised to learn that they all have wondered about the same things over the years. Exploring space-related questions together also presents an opportunity to share memories and unique perspectives with children.

Grandparents, for example, might remember the earliest rocket launches. Children will love to hear stories about what it was like to hear and see for the first time that a man walked on the moon!

Likewise, parents might remember the changes they've seen take place within the space program, from the introduction of new kinds of spacecraft — like the Space Shuttle — to the International Space Station. They can also share the sadness that they felt when they learned of the Space Shuttle *Challenger* disaster.

Today's children will lead lives that depend on orbiting satellites for everything from communication to television reception and more. Did their grandparents or parents foresee this? Although today's children will witness the end of the Space Shuttle program, they'll also have a front-row seat to even more spectacular explorations, such as attempts to reach Mars and beyond.

Begin with conversations

Conversations are a natural beginning for parents and children to learn together. There are no rules. Just talk together about what your children are curious about. Find out what interests them and explore together!

Here are a few questions to help get the conversation flowing:

- If you could travel to another planet, which one would you choose? Why?
- What do you think life would be like on Mars?
- How are today's astronauts like ancient explorers, such as Christopher Columbus? How are they different?
- Do you think riding the Space Shuttle into outer space would be scary or exciting? Or both?



In addition to these conversation starters, we encourage you to visit the National Center for Family Literacy's groundbreaking educational website: [Wonderopolis®](#). Wonderopolis features a wide variety of Wonders of the Day® you can use to explore the reaches of the universe as a family.

Younger children often have the most questions about space. Unfortunately, they might not yet have the scientific knowledge to understand the answers to some of their questions.

However, that doesn't mean that you can't have wonderful family discussions about outer space. Take some time as a family to explore these out-of-this-world Wonders of the Day with your younger children:

- [Wonder of the Day #11: What Causes a Shooting Star?](#)
- [Wonder of the Day #19: What Would You Pack For a Trip To Outer Space?](#)
- [Wonder of the Day #76: What Does the Moon Do?](#)
- [Wonder of the Day #128: How Much Do You Weigh On the Moon?](#)

Of course, as children grow older, their curiosity about "what's out there" often grows along with their scientific knowledge. The more they understand about how the world around them works, the more they understand how little we know about outer space compared to our knowledge of Earth.

Even if the universe doesn't hold quite as many secrets as it used to, there are still all sorts of fantastic places to explore in outer space. Use the following Wonders of the Day to spark discussions with the curious older children in your family:

- [Wonder of the Day #68: Is There Life On Other Planets?](#)
- [Wonder of the Day #73: Why Is Pluto No Longer a Planet?](#)
- [Wonder of the Day #94: What Is a Supernova?](#)
- [Wonder of the Day #182: How Many Stars Are In the Universe?](#)

About Wonderopolis

Brought to life by the National Center for Family Literacy, [Wonderopolis.org](#) is a new and innovative destination for families that inspires parents to seek and nurture a brighter world for their children through the power of discovery, creativity, learning, and imagination.