Worlds Tuff Spot Playmat

Lunar World

Product Code

AW9

One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind!' Take a rocket to the moon, moon walk with the astronauts, explore the craters, take rock samples and drive the moon buggies, but watch out for aliens!

Fits snuggly into our Active World Tray.

Contents Size 860mm.

Aims & Objectives

· Children learn best when they are actively involved, enjoying what they are doing. Active Worlds enable children to experience learning through a multi-sensory approach. They provide learning opportunities for a wide range of curriculum areas, where children can freely explore materials within the confines of the tuff spot.

· There will be elements of consolidation, exploration, investigation, and fun in every activity.

· All the activities can be free play, where the children explore independently, or adult directed, where children are given specific tasks to undertake.

· Use this mat as a stimulus for other areas – move to space music, paint your own outer space world, investigate the names of other planets, make mobiles, design rockets etc.

Can investigate objects and materials by using all their senses as appropriate.

Ø E.g. Use sand or gravel as a basis for the moon dust. Investigate the differences – the feel of these two materials.

Can build and construct with a wide range of objects, selecting appropriate resources and adapting their work where necessary.

Ø E.g. Can they build a moon buggy, or a space satellite base.

Can select tools and techniques they need to shape, assemble and join the materials they are using.

Ø E.g. Provide opportunities for the children to plan making a space centre or a rocket to get them to the moon.They could make control panels.

Ø E.g. Extend the range of techniques they are using to create the models – cutting with scissors, tearing
paper; using a range of joining methods – glue, staples, treasury tags, adhesive labels etc.

Find out about and identify the uses of everyday technology using information and communication technology long with programmable toys to support their learning

Ø E.g. Use 'walkie talkies' to communicate between the astronaut and mission control.

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Ø E.g. Use simple programmable toys or remote control cars as the basis for the moon buggy, then send it to visit the different craters or travel from the rocket to a crater and back again.

Ideas for use and links with National Curriculum areas:

Mathematics: Opportunities for counting (the number of rockets, craters, astronauts); begin to use the vocabulary involved in adding and subtracting (there a two astronauts here already and the spaceship is coming with another 3 on board, how many will there be all together?); use everyday words to describe position (next to, behind, in front of, beside); use shapes appropriately for tasks, talking about the shapes as they are using them (build a space rocket or a satellite shuttle using appropriately shaped boxes or construction kits); don't forget to count backwards when getting ready for 'lift off'.

Personal and Social: Is interested, excited and motivated to learn through this hands on experiential approach. This encourages children to be confident to try new activities, initiate ideas and speak in a familiar group. It can work as part of a group all taking turns; sharing and collaborating. Children can select and use activities and resources independently. By playing with the figures and recreating landings they can share experiences.

Creative Development: Exploring colour, texture, shape, form and space in two or three dimensions. Make footprints and tracks in the dry, dusty surface. Use their imagination in art and design, music, dance, imaginative and role play (listen to space music, use the lunar landscape as a stimulus for dance and movement, create stories on what happens on the moon). Make craters from playdough built up, or paper maché. Create your own 'alien' from playdough, construction kits or old boxes etc. Convert the role play area into an outer space area with the tuff spot in it – cover the area with a dark canopy, attach fluorescent stars, or stars and planets made from shiny paper to the canopy and only let the children go in when they are in their 'space suits' (silver coated wellies, silver coated plastic drink bottles strapped to their backs for oxygen tanks etc). Hang mobiles above the tuff spot. Old CDs make great planets.

Communication, Language and Literacy: Uses language to imagine and recreate their own stories about the moon or the astronauts – promoting imaginative discussion. Interacts with others, negotiating plans and activities and taking turns in conversations. Extend their vocabulary through contextual experiences e.g. satellite, lunar, moon, stars, rocket, gravity etc. Attempts writing for various purposes – e.g. writing instructions for the space voyage, recording what you might find as you explore the surface of the moon. Use stories as a prompt for developing their own. The pupils could listen to the account of the first moon landing. They could recreate 'the giant leap'.

Physical Development: Use a range of small equipment. Develop fine motor control – carefully position the space rockets, astronauts etc. Gross motor skills can be developed by acting out space scenes pretending to be weightless, dancing to moon, music twirling, swirling etc.

Resources: (Here are some ideas of what could be used – this is just the beginning!)
Make rocks from sculptured oasis (FOSPH)
Iridescent shred (FIRI)
Astronauts (FMVOY)
Space rockets
Pebbles (FBPEB)
Rocks (SROCK-MA, SROCK-SA)
Space centres (FSTATION)
Improvisation – Make your own resources!
Cornflour (FCORN)
Sand (FGLIMS – black glitter sand)
Stones (FPEGR)
Playdough for craters
Papier maché craters
Model rockets from kitchen roll tubes

NB There is an excellent NASA website which provides great images.
Care Instructions
Use damp cloth to wipe surface.
We would recommend that you roll rather than fold your mat after use, with the picture facing outwards. Any wrinkles can also be removed by wafting a warm hairdryer over the mat. Ideally to avoid creases store in a warm environment.