



Blast Off! — Lesson Plan

Grade: Pre-K–2 | Duration: 40–50 minutes | CASEL Domain: Responsible Decision-Making

Objective: Students will practice creative problem-solving and discover that curiosity transforms questions into adventures.

Essential Question: *"How does one curious question change everything?"*

Materials: The personalized story, Cardboard boxes and tubes, Tape, markers, aluminum foil, Paper and crayons

Vocabulary: Curiosity, Countdown, Astronaut, Galaxy, Asteroid, Mission, Problem-solve, Explore, Discover, Orbit

ANTICIPATORY SET (5 MIN)

Ask: "What's one thing you wonder about space?" Write wonders on star-shaped sticky notes. Post them. These are our "curiosity fuel."

DIRECT INSTRUCTION (15 MIN)

Read aloud with excitement. Pause at the cardboard build — celebrate imagination. Pause at the problem — model thinking aloud. Pause at the return home — discuss how exploration changes perspective.

GUIDED PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Mission Control Problem Cards: draw cards and solve space problems in 60 seconds. Practice thinking under pressure — creativity, not perfection.

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Design a spaceship with labeled parts. Write one postcard from space describing a discovery.

CLOSURE (5 MIN)

Class countdown and "launch" the cardboard rocket. Share: "One thing curiosity taught me today is ____."

ASSESSMENT

Observe problem-solving during Mission Control activity. Review spaceship designs and postcards. Exit ticket: "What question could start an adventure?"

DIFFERENTIATION

Support: Provide spaceship templates. Pair for problem-solving. Offer word banks for writing.

Extend: Research a real space mission. Create a "Space Explorer's Handbook" with discoveries and problem-solving tips.

HOME CONNECTION

Send home a "Wonder Star" card. Families write questions they're curious about and stargaze together.
