The Outer Space theme started with a study of the planets in our Solar System, beginning with our own planet Earth. We read the story, *Me and My Place In Space* by Joan Sweeney, to gain perspective on how we fit into the larger concept of space. With our world as the starting point, in this story we are taken on a tour past each planet and on to the stars—all through the eyes of a young girl. We studied each planet in detail and began construction of a solar system that hung from the Green Room ceiling. We learned the Planet Song:

Mercury, Venus, Earth (and the Moon),
Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus,
Neptune, Pluto, all around the Sun,
That is our Solar System!

In the following weeks, we added discussion and activities about the Moon, Stars and Constellations, as well as about Astronauts, Rockets and Space Equipment. Some of the favorite activities included writing and illustrating outer space stories; playing the Count Down To Liftoff Game; blasting off rockets to the moon (using air power from a balloon to launch a paper rocket on a straw up a long string); the Alien Art Dice game; and building our own Geo Boards (using rubber bands to make constellations) in Woodworking.

Above Left: Clara and Younghoon study the globe and make a stuffed planet earth.

Maddie, Kayla and Liam paint the Sun.

Roland puts the finishing touches on a small dough planet.

Zen, Paul and Maya decorate Venus.
We are all space explorers!

Some of our favorite Outer Space activities and projects!

Shahrzad and Aaron paint a planet with cloth brushes.

Abigail blows colored bubbles before dipping paper in to make a bubble design.

Mintaek pretends with astronaut figures in the sand.

Mack and Alex create a story with the space station.

Perry and Thomas work on the Solar System puzzle.

Elena and Anna decorate their astronaut locker tags.
Jacey makes an alien creature.

Jingcheng, Ali and Megumi display their completed Solar System puzzle.

Noah S., Giovanni and Will play with the space station.

A list of outer space facts is recorded at circle time.
Grace and Neve record their guesses for how many “moon rocks” are in The Guessing Jar.

Annette blows through a straw to move glitter on her Glitter Galaxy.

Neve, Yu and Sasha count forwards and backwards as they play the Count and Link game.

Elena adds to her alien space ship.

Kouta adds links for the Count and Link Game.
Isaac peeks through a tunnel of the Space Station play tent.

Benjamin wears his astronaut gear to work in the Space Station.

Noah H. takes notes for his job as an Astronaut in the Space Station.

Some friends sample different kinds of dried fruit as something astronauts might eat in outer space.

Melynda uses her hands and clay tools to change the shape of a lump of clay.

Elena, Lili and Anna explore a book about Outer Space in the Green Room Library.
Ali and Pax experiment with the double funnel sand sifter built for the sand box.

Kiana quickly names a line of upper and lower case letters in the Alphabet Race Game.

Jacob and Lynn work on their Number Books.

Gabrielle creates a person with the Magnet Shape Tiles.
Birthdays

Alex, Neve, John, Giovanni and Asher all celebrated birthdays in the classroom. Their families joined them for birthday snacks and stories.
Zen’s mom demonstrates how the sun lights our earth and the moon.

Cellist Irvin Kauffman of the Pittsburgh Symphony shares his music with the Green Room friends.

Listening To Great Stories

Aaron’s mom, John’s friend Stacy, and Tiernan’s dad read books at Circle Time.