This month, the children have been doing things that are OUT OF THIS WORLD...

...that’s right! We have focused on outer space. We have learned about astronauts, space food, space shuttles, the planets, the phases of the moon, reflections, constellations, and craters. It has been a blast(off) to explore the atmosphere above us. Seemed like we only scraped the surface (of the moon), but we definitely have a better understanding of our solar system.

We jumped out of our comfort zone and right onto unknown territory with our first book, Mooncake, by Frank Asch. Bear builds a rocket to go to the moon. He never actually leaves Earth, but he is pleasantly surprised to awaken from hibernation in the winter and mistakes the snow for the moon’s surface. We enjoyed “tasting the moon” ourselves. The taste was strangely similar to cheese! Rocket ships, moon walking, and moon rocks were fun activities to go along with this book.

The Turtle and the Moon by Charles Turner was about a lonely turtle who finds companionship in the reflection of the moon. It was fun to create play-doh turtles, make turtle shells and feet, and compete in turtle races.

Following our turtle and moon explorations, we learned about constellations with the book The Biggest Bear by Adam Relf. In this book, the main character, Toby, sees his shadow and thinks it is the biggest bear. His father corrects him by showing him bigger bears, saving “The Great Bear” constellation for last. We were excited to use the shadow screen, make asteroid belts, and play bear bingo. In the kitchen, we tried slurping pudding through a ziploc bag like the astronauts do.

Hedgie Blasts Off! by Jan Brett concluded our unit. In this tale, Hedgie’s dream to be an astronaut is realized when the opportunity to go to another planet on a special mission is made available. Hedgie’s heroic adventure awards him fame. In honor of Hedgie’s trip to the moon, we drew him in a step-by-step process, assembled aliens, sorted money and made coin imprints.

We really had a great learning adventure while studying outer space! We are looking forward to the upcoming rainforest theme!

Miss Furman and Ms. McMichael
Twinkle, twinkle little star, we have come so very far!
Up above the world so high, rockets, planets, my oh my!
We may come to school by car,
but outer space is where we are!