

## Planet Earth in Space

### Activities for infant classes

- Fieldwork: link to weather observations. What do we see in the sky during the day? Develop vocabulary to describe the sun.
- Discuss what do we see in the sky at night - the moon, the stars and develop appropriate descriptive vocabulary. Simulate the moon's surface e.g.
  - bowl of white flour, drop objects into bowl and remove, observe indentations and relate to craters on Moon's surface.
- Identify, 'The Sun', 'The Moon', and 'Stars' from junior solar system charts or web site images.
- Identify 'The Earth' and relate to globe as a model of the earth.
- Make a Star Box e.g.
  - Long, narrow, rectangular box with hole at one end big enough to insert a cardboard tube similar to tissue paper tube
  - Cut open one side leaving flaps that can be resealed and paint inside of box black
  - Stars: balls of tin-foil, cut different lengths of thread and tie around each star
  - Stick the threaded stars/tinfoil balls in a row inside the box
  - Loosely tape shut the open side of the box and now look through the tube:  
*all the balls seem to be grouped together because it is black all around them*
- List activities we can do during the day and during the night: Matching Game
  - Two hoola-hoops one labelled for day one for night, lay on floor slightly overlapped
  - Children have pictures of various activities and decide, 'Do I do this during the day or night?' Once they decide, they walk to the most appropriate hoop and place their picture in the hoop
  - As a challenge, have some activities which will raise debate e.g. washing my teeth. When do we do this?...such activities can be placed where the hoops overlap as they can be done during the day i.e. morning or at night i.e. before we go to bed

- Stories introducing children to idea of day and night, what is in the night sky. e.g.  
The Dancing Tiger by Malachy Doyle  
How to catch a star by Oliver Jeffers