

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
CALLING PLANET EARTH - SPACE OUTREACH TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC (3)

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ESA KIDS, ESA'S WEBSITE FOR YOUNG SPACE ENTHUSIASTS

Abstract

The European Space Agency's Kids site is a must for any young space enthusiasts. With information on everything from rockets launchers to living in space, the site contains the latest space news as well as quizzes, games and puzzles. A lab section showing how to build satellite models and track the orbits of ESA spacecraft is a particular favourite for many children.

Information on the Kids website is presented in five clear topics: Our Universe, Life in Space, Lift off, Useful Space and Earth. In these sections, children learn more about a broad range of space topics such as the Solar System, the Universe, stars, astronauts, exploration, spacecraft, space spin offs and Earth observation. These concise information pages aim to explain scientific concepts and definitions in a clear and succinct way, tailored to the interests of children. The language style of the website has also been adapted for a younger audience.

Each month, a specific topic related to a major space event is highlighted. Within this topic children learn more about the science behind the mission or event and will find a huge amount of useful background information. Statistics and feedback received is used to drive the choice of topics, and helps to determine popular topics which enable us to add more information or highlight specific information.

A new Homework section will soon be added. Here children will be able to immediately identify which sections of the website could be used for school projects and topics being covered in the school curriculum. Parents and teachers will also find this section very helpful.

The Kids website is currently available in six languages: English, French, German, Spanish, Italian and Dutch.

The website address is www.esa.int/kids