

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Hands-on Space Education and Outreach (8)

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A SPACE EXPEDITION FOR EARLY ELEMENTARY AND PRESCHOOL

Abstract

This paper will present an activity made for preschool and early primary education. The concept is, normally presented as a one-day course for teachers of young children, with a combination of lectures and practical activities. The course presents a wide variety of space related topics and activities that the teachers can take back to their classrooms, and use as background to create a long-term space themed project with their group of young learners. The ambition of the course is to give the teachers enough knowledge about space to make them feel comfortable enough to talk easily with the children about space related topics. The activities the teachers will learn throughout the course are both practical and physical, in addition to creative and aesthetically aimed activities. The methodology used in the course, is based on active- inquiry learning, and encourage the teachers to create settings for the children to become, and stay, curious and inquisitive. The activities are created with a larger theme project in mind; they can be used in any order, depending on the interests of the learners. The children's role in choosing the topics is essential throughout the course, as the intention is to allow the children to pursue their interests, and hence lead the project forwards. The teachers are encouraged to reflect on personal experiences and ideas together with the children to ensure a feeling of ethos and purpose, and help the children contemplate on their own educational values. All activities used in this course are created by NAROM.