

## Stargazing

Some of your children may have gone home before the night sky is dark enough to see the stars, but this should not stop you from stargazing together!

### Learning aims

- Learning about the world around them
- Developing observation skills
- Spotting patterns
- Investigating and exploring.

### Resources

- Books
- Computer
- Mobile device (e.g. iPad).



### Activity Outline

- Use books or the computer to look at examples and videos of the night sky with the children, either one-to-one or in small groups
- Highlight the constellations and talk to the children about their names and why they are called this
- Ask the children to come up with their own names for some star patterns, ask them why they have created this name or character based on the shapes
- Explore further into the solar system. Talk to the children about the planets in the Milky Way and their names. Why not create a papier-mâché display of the planets with the children? You could hang them across the room to show the order from the sun
- Have you got an observatory near the nursery? If you have why not see if you can take the children to visit and explore the sky for themselves?

### Extending the activity

In order for the children to see the night sky why not create a parent pack on astronomy to go home with the child?

You can download star maps to print out, but there are plenty of free apps to download to mobile devices to help. They can actually tell you the names of stars and constellations when you point it at the night sky!

Point parents in the right direction and then ask for feedback to see what stars or constellations they have seen.