

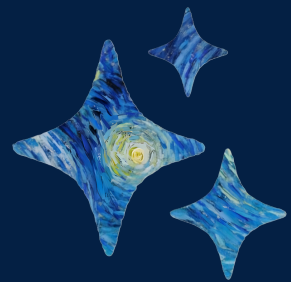
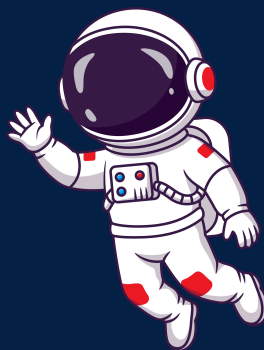
Rowan Room's Home Learning Term 1 - 2026/2027



Summer/Autumn 2026; Craighalbert Centre -

Hello everyone and welcome back! We have had a brilliant start to our first term as a new class. There have been plenty of smiles, laughs and great conversations shared. The children have settled in wonderfully and I am so looking forward to the academic year ahead. It is going to be filled with so much fun, laughter and learning.

Our theme for this term is **To Infinity and Beyond - A Space Adventure**. Our topic will provide exciting opportunities for the children to explore the wonders of Space and our Earth through lights, sounds, music, movement, stories, objects and creative activities. Along the way, we will support communication and interaction, encourage curiosity, develop understanding of the world, and provide opportunities for exploration, creativity and shared experiences. We can't wait to see where our Space adventure takes us!



KIND



AMBITIOUS



CHILD-CENTERED



INSPIRATIONAL



COLLABORATIVE

Blast Off!

Explore **Space sounds and movements** together.

Use everyday objects, your voice or apps to create sounds for a rocket journey and record them.

Sequence the sounds to tell a simple “**Blast Off!**” story.

This could include:

- Countdown – family counting down from 10
- Rocket engines – shaking a container with rice/pasta
- Blast off – loud “WHOOSH!”
- Flying through space – gentle swishing sounds
- Stars twinkling – tapping a glass or triangle app
- Moon landing – soft “thump”
- Astronaut talking – recording a message such as “Hello from the Moon!”

Encourage your child to make a choice about which sound comes next using their PODB books.



Autumn Textures



Go on an Autumn sensory stroll together and collect different natural objects such as leaves, bark, flowers, twigs etc.

Using your child's AAC device, have a conversation about the texture of the objects you collect and what you think of it.

Encourage your child to use their movements to press the objects you have collected into clay, salt dough or playdough. Explore the patterns you have made together through touch and/or sight.

You could even choose a colour and paint the pattern you have made together!

You can learn how to make your own playdough at home through the QR code below.



WHAT CAN YOU SEE IN SPACE? 🌙

Explore pictures, books or videos about Space together. Look at the different things we might see in Space (presenting the objects/images in front of a black background will support visual focus) and use your PODD books to complete the sentence starters.

Choose some objects to talk about:

- Sun
- Moon
- Stars
- Earth
- Planets
- Rocket
- Astronaut
- Alien

Use your PODD book to complete the sentences.

For example:

- “I see the....”
- “The rocket is going....”
- “I like the”
- “The planet is”
- “I want to see....”

For the adults: It is a good idea to model your own sentence first spark your child’s engagement and support their understanding of the task.

SPLATTER ART



This is a great, fun activity to get all the family involved with..

What you'll need:

- Large sheet of paper or canvas
- Washable paints in your child's favourite colours
- Squirt bottles or droppers
- Protective covering for the work area
- Optional: photos of your child, scissors, glue

How to do it:

Set up:

- Tape or blu tack the paper to a door .The paper should be level with your child's eyes.
- Cover the floor area with a plastic sheet or old newspapers.
- Choose colours: Let your child pick their favourite colours using their PODD or communication device.
- Put small amounts of each paint into separate squirt bottles or use droppers.
- Create the base: Squeeze or drop small puddles of paint onto the paper.
- Squeeze Art: If your child can squeeze the bottle, let them squeeze paint directly onto the paper. If not, they can use their PODD or best 'yes' to tell you where they want you to add more paint.
- Add details: Use the straw or dropper to add smaller details or mix colours
- For a personalised touch, add your favourite photo to the dried splatter art.

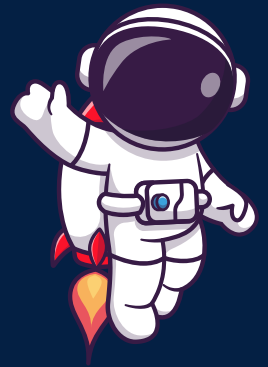
Move Like an Astronaut

Explore different ways of **moving like an astronaut**.

You could watch a short video of astronauts moving in Space and then try some movements together.

Think about:

- Reaching for the stars
- Floating
- Pushing off from the ground
- Moving slowly
- Moving quickly
- Turning
- Stretching
- Landing on the Moon



Your child can participate using their **usual movement and access method**, with adult support where needed.

You could also make an **astronaut movement sequence** with 3 movements.

For example:

Reach → Float → Land

Can you repeat your sequence together?

Respond to your child's movement initiations. For example, if they move their hands in a grasping motion, you can engage them in the activity by suggesting they might be trying to catch the stars.

MOON MASH

You will need:

- Large activity tray
- Large bowl and spoon
- Packets of instant mash potato
- Water (if boiling water is required for the instant mash, allow the mixture to completely cool before using)
- Edible glitter (this is glitter used in cake decorating)
- Large waterproof/wipeable mat to cover the floor
- Optional mark-making tools: moon buggies (cars and trucks), pastry brushes, sand scrapers, potato mashers

Method

1. In the bowl, pour half of the instant mash potato and mix with water (follow instructions on the packet for water quantity).
2. Place a waterproof mat onto the floor and position a large activity tray on top.
3. Pour the mash potato into the large activity tray and arrange into a semicircle shape.
4. Pour in the rest of the dry instant potato to the tray and arrange into another semicircle to make a full moon shape (half mash and half dry mash potato flakes).
5. Sprinkle the edible glitter on top of the dry and wet potato.
6. The Moon Mash is now ready for children to discover, manipulate and play with.

Activity Ideas

- Encourage your to explore the dry and wet textures. Model using language in their PDD book such as dry, wet, soft, slimy and shiny.
- If they initiate, support your child to pick up the moon mash and squeeze and roll the mixture in their hands.
- Add in some Space-themed toys or other mark-making tools for your child to explore making marks in the mash.



Shared Reading

Reading with each other is such a joyful experience and can be shared anywhere.

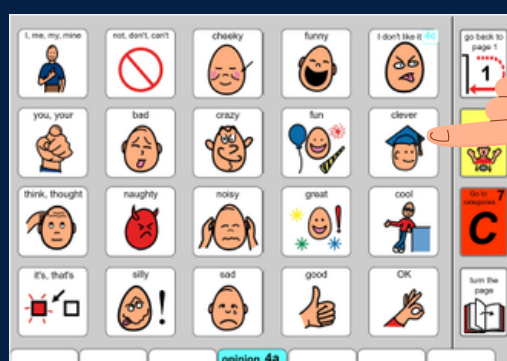
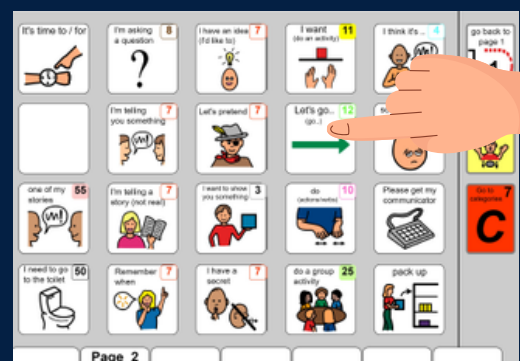
Find a place in your community to share a story together.

This can be at the park, in a café, at the library, in your garden or even at school!

If you can, take a photo to send to us of you reading together so that we can add to our class shared reading display.

We would also love if you could let us know some of your favourite books that you like to share together.

Shared reading is a great opportunity to model and encourage communication through your child's individual AAC device. We have a fantastic video on our website for you to watch that explains this further.



Music from Space!



Create a piece of Space music together.

Use household objects, musical instruments or music apps to explore different sounds.

Think about how the music could represent travelling through Space.

For example:

- Slow, quiet sounds – floating in Space
- Fast sounds – a rocket taking off
- High sounds – flying past the stars
- Low sounds – landing on a planet
- Loud sounds – blast off!
- Quiet sounds – exploring the Moon

Let your child choose which sounds they would like to include.

Record your Space music to share with the class.



thank you

Home learning gives our children the opportunity to show you the skills they have been developing and allows them to make meaningful connections between school and home.

We hope you enjoy doing these tasks with all of your friends and family.
We would love to see some photos of your activities and all playing and learning together.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Katie and the Rowan Room