

How to make a fun space craft with the kids

I keep calling this a preschool craft, as it has an end goal in mind. However, it is more of a mix of craftiness and [process art](#). The children don't need to make their planet sun catchers the same we did, and they get to explore what happens when water is absorbed by colorful coffee filters.

Materials

Coffee filters

Markers

Spray bottle filled with water

[Contact paper](#) (optional)

Prep

Cut the eight planets out of coffee filters. I did this free-hand, and the planets are obviously not scaled correctly! I left Jupiter, the largest planet, as an intact coffee filter. Then I cut out the rest of the planets in descending order by size. I wanted to have them sized differently to help the kiddos see how the planets compare to each other.

What to do

Read a lot of fun planet books to the kiddos first, so they have a basic understanding of the solar system. Real photos of the planets are a must, too! This craft is a fun way to extend their knowledge and help them order the planets.

Starting with Mercury, have the kiddos color in the coffee filter planets with markers.

Once the coffee filters are colored in, let the children spray water onto them. It's best to thoroughly coat the marker drawings with water without totally drowning the coffee filters.

Once all of the coffee filter planets are dry, put them up in the windows! They make pretty sun catchers, if I do say so myself. At first, we put them up in the windows with tape, but they didn't stay as well as we'd hoped. So we placed the planets on a piece of contact paper that's taped up in the window, sticky side out. I went back and labeled the planets too, of course!

The learning

Here's a taste of the early education concepts this little space craft for kids incorporates:

- Fine motor skills (coloring and using the spray bottle)
- Science (talking about the planets' locations and other details)
- Math (discussing colors, ordering the planets from 1st through 8th, and comparing sizes)
- Literacy (all of the oral language involved throughout the craft and the words labeling the planets)

