

# BLINK AT HOME

# DESIGN A MISSION

## Can I design a spacecraft to carry astronauts?

### Skills to Develop

- + Creative thinking
- + Science process skills
- + Fine motor skills

### Materials

- + Recycled craft materials
- + Tape or glue
- + Paper
- + Pencil or crayon
- + Hot glue (optional)

## WHAT TO DO

### Before the Learning Activity

1. Gather recycled craft materials- cardboard boxes, toilet paper tubes, popsicle sticks, pipe cleaners, bottles, paper, aluminum foil, etc.

### During the Learning Activity

1. Discuss astronauts and space. Talk about how astronauts use rockets to get to the International Space Station, where they can do all kinds of science experiments. Their rockets are kind of like cars that can fly through space and bring the astronauts and all their luggage safely to the ISS. Astronauts usually stay at the ISS for weeks or months before coming home to Earth.
2. Brainstorm things astronauts might need in their rocket. Write these ideas down on your paper. Review these necessities together.
3. Ask your child to draw a rocket that would meet these needs for the astronauts who would be riding inside. As they work, ask them questions about the things they are drawing in their plan.
4. Explain that you are going to use their drawing as a plan to help you build your rocket out of recycled materials. Show them material options. Help them attach the materials they choose with tape or glue. Have them refer to their drawing as needed to encourage them to keep adding the elements they brainstormed to their rocket. You may wish to secure materials with hot glue to make it more durable.
5. Pretend play that you are astronauts traveling on the rocket you built.

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### Extend the Fun

- + Watch videos of life on the ISS or rocket launches.
- + Build your own space station out of recycled materials.