

ASTRONOMY ACTIVITY:

Homemade Constellation Projector

Turn your child's room into a planetarium for stargazing at night. Use this tool as a hands-on approach to teaching your child about astronomy, and spark their interest in the study of space with an introductory lesson in constellations.

SUPPLIES:

- One flashlight
- One clean oatmeal container
- One see-through oatmeal container lid
- Two pieces of black construction paper
- One white crayon or colored pencil
- One pushpin, needle or poking device
- Scissors or craft knife
- Constellation templates



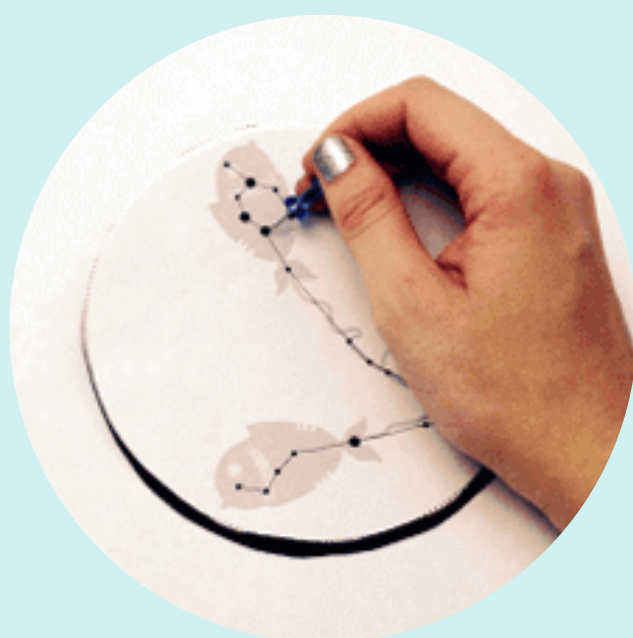
1 Trace the bottom of your flashlight on the bottom of the oatmeal container. Then cut out your flashlight-sized hole with your scissors or craft knife.

2 Slip the flashlight through the inside of the container so that the lit side is facing the top of the container. Tape the flashlight in place, so that part of it sits inside the container, and part is outside, preferably keeping the on/off switch on the outside.



3 Next, trace the outside of your container lid on a black piece of construction paper with your white utensil. Cut your circle out of the construction paper, and complete three more times to create four circles.

4 Print out the constellation star templates. Then, place a black circle under each constellation individually, and poke through the holes in the template while also poking through your black circles. The end result should be four different constellation charts on black circles.



5 You can also enlist your child to help decorate the outside of your constellation with construction paper, sparkles, star stickers, and more. It's up to you and your child!

6 To use the constellation projector, put one constellation on your clear lid and place the lid on your container. You can also tape the constellations to the lid, if need be. With the lights off, turn your flashlight on and project your constellation onto the wall or ceiling.

