

Jumpstart Exploring Mars

Children first.

Why is exploring Mars important?

- Mars is the planet most like Earth. Sending rovers like the Perseverance to collect samples of the soil can help us determine if humans can live on Mars.
- Eventually astronauts will be able to go to Mars and explore for themselves.
- NASA has sent 5 rovers named Sojourner, Spirit, Opportunity, Curiosity, and Perseverance to explore and collect samples.
- Did you know it took about seven months for Perseverance to get to Mars.

Activity: Robots

Goal: Oral language, print skills, social emotional skills.

Materials: Two toilet paper rolls, aluminum foil, straws, glue, marker, scissors.

Directions:

- Start by telling your child you will be building robots together.
- Add glue to the toilet paper roll, cover it with aluminum foil, and cut the excess foil.
- Before adding the legs and arms ask your child where they would like to add them and how many. Every robot can be different.
- Encourage your child to think about where and why their hands and feet should be placed in certain areas of the body. For example, "The Perseverance has six legs with wheels and one arm that stretches out to help it collect samples. What will your robot have?"
- Once you have determined how many legs and arms use scissors to cut the straws into arms and legs. You can use glue to attach them or make holes in the toilet paper roll and insert the straw pieces.
- You can also ask your child how they would feel about being able to visit or live in Mars and share your own feelings.
- For the final touch, use the marker to draw eyes, mouth, or anything else you would like to add.

