My Rainy Day Rocket Ship
The 2021 CLEL Bell Award Book for PLAY

by Markette Sheppard, illustrated by Charly Palmer
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It's too rainy outside, so it's time for play inside! A young boy uses his creativity, imagination and help from his parents to make a super rocket ship out of everyday objects. Play encourages children to build their imaginations, learn empathy and navigate the ups and downs of friendship.

Activity Ideas for *My Rainy Day Rocket Ship*

- Learning and movement go hand in hand. When children are active, so are their brains. The hero of this book zooms off into outer space. "Zoom, Zoom, Zoom We're Going to the Moon" is a song with motions about blasting off into outer space. Emphasize the rhyming words by clapping at the appropriate times. Try it with other songs, too! Your children will be able to hear the matching sounds of rhyming words after they practice. Watch the video here: [https://youtu.be/tMJ9pZ9W7jc](https://youtu.be/tMJ9pZ9W7jc).

- Children deal with problem solving, even when they play. The boy in the book often asks his grownups for help, giving them an opportunity to guide him through solutions. Boxes provide endless opportunities to use their imagination and critical thinking skills. What could your child make out a large box or two? A super rocket ship? A secret hiding space? A house just their size? When they're finished, let them tell you all about it. Ask to show you what they can do with it, how they made it or any special features.

- Cuddling together with a book reinforces a caregiver and child bond and associates the act of reading with positive experiences and trust. The little boy zooms off to bed after spending a memorable day with his parents, giving him warm and comfy feelings. Get cozy and read a story about space exploration together. Talk about what's happening on the page. Ask what the child thinks about the photographs or illustrations. Would they want to go into the pages of the book? What was their favorite part and why?