



Congratulations on your purchase of the Really Good Stuff® Spaceman Set! Your young readers and writers will really appreciate this whimsical reminder to correctly space words when printing or reading.

Included in this Really Good Stuff® set you'll find:

- 30 Spacemen
- Really Good Activity Guide™

Here are some ideas for using this set in your classroom today!

Spaceman Puppet Chant

Print the following cheery Spaceman chant on sentence strips or chart pad paper, then teach children the chant so they can learn about Spaceman's special job:

Spaceman, Spaceman,
has a job to do.
Spaceman, Spaceman,
makes a space for you!

Distribute one Spaceman to each child. Introduce your Spaceman to the children the same way you would introduce a puppet character. Pretend your Spaceman is the leader of the other Spacemen held by the children. Together, move your Spacemen up and down in rhythm with the chant. Follow-up this session by having children take turns placing their Spacemen in the spaces between the words printed on the display. Ask each child to work individually to secretly count the spaces. Then, count the spaces together. Provide children with another printed display of the chant with no spaces between words. Talk together about how this chart is much harder to read.

Pocket Chart Spaceman

Place a series of pocket chart word cards into the chart so the ends of the cards are touching each other and the letters run together. Demonstrate how it is very difficult to read these words. Have children separate the words by placing a Spaceman between the individual word cards. Read the newly separated words. Count the words and spaces.

Another time, ask children to use Spacemen to mark the spaces between a series of words printed on blank sentence strips. Once again, read and count out the words and spaces. Help children conclude that the spaces between the words help make the words more readable. (Variation: Spaceman can also show children how words on your Word Wall are spaced for readability!)

Spaceman Space Walk

Use a Spaceman (stuck on clothespin or on oaktag) to highlight the spaces that exist between words in a familiar story printed in a Big Book. Also, take Spaceman on a space walk around your school so he can help point out spaces that exist between words printed on posters, signs and charts. These activities will help children become more aware of the spaces that exist in authentic everyday print that surrounds them.

Spaceman In Writing Group

Beginning writers often have difficulty remembering to leave spaces between words as they write. Partially this is because children are still developing their ability to conceptualize the notion of what constitutes a word in print. It is also true, in part, because invented spelling in itself takes a lot of concentration so children "forget" about spacing. Plus, when beginning writers read their own writing to themselves, they mentally insert spaces without being aware that other readers need to SEE the spaces. Luckily, Spaceman comes to the rescue! Offer Spaceman to children for use as they write and for when they read back their writing. Be prepared to demonstrate how Spaceman must fit between words for the writing to make sense to the reader. You may also have children practice using Spaceman to space words between passages they copy from the chalkboard or chart paper, or on printed poems and stories you offer to them. (Tip: Young children should be placed only a short distance from any passage they are expected to copy.)

Spaceman Hang-ups

Spaceman clothespins can also be used to display students' written work on a clothesline or ceiling wire.

Spaceman Go Home

Spaceman is eager to go home with children. Consider tucking Spaceman into a plastic zip-lock bag along with an emergent reader book or a class book you've prepared with large spaces between words. (Don't worry about placing Spaceman into a plastic bag- he comes equipped with special "oxygen tanks" just for this purpose.)

Spaceman Game

Mark the backs of your Spacemen with the numbers 1 to 15, 2 times so that you have pairs. Put a clothespin Spaceman side up on each child's desk then play "Concentration" where students pick and choose and try to remember who has what number in order to match pairs. Far out!