

Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

Spaceman Deluxe Student Set

Congratulations on your purchase of the **Really Good Stuff Spaceman Deluxe Student 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**, ½" by 4 7/8", with line for child's name
- 1 storage capsule with decorative sticker, for storage of **Spacemen**
- This Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

How To Introduce The Spacemen

Print the following cheery **Spaceman Chant** on sentence strips or chart pad paper. Teach students 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** apiece to the children. Have them fill in their names in the ruled space on the back. Proceed to introduce your **Spaceman** to the children the same way you would introduce a puppet character. (We suggest you use the **Teacher's Spaceman #147635**). Pretend that your **Spaceman** is the leader of the **Spacemen** held by the children. As you all repeat the **Spaceman Chant**, move your **Spaceman** up and down in rhythm with the chant. Follow up 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 silently count the spaces. Then count the spaces together. Provide children with another printed display of the chart with no spaces between words. Discuss 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 students 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: **Spacemen** can also show children how words on your Word Wall are spaced for readability!)

Spaceman Space Walk

Use a **Spaceman** to highlight the spaces that exist between words in a familiar book. Next, take a **Spaceman** on a space walk around your school so he can help point out the spaces that exist between words painted on posters, signs and charts. These activities will help children become more aware of the spaces that exist in everyday print.

Spaceman In Writers' Workshop

Young writers often have difficulty remembering to leave spaces between words as they write. This is partially because they are still developing their ability to conceptualize the notion of what constitutes a word in print. Also, 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! Instruct students to use **Spaceman** as they write, and as they read back their writing. Be prepared to demonstrate how **Spaceman** must fit between words in order for the writing to make sense to the reader. You may also have children practice using **Spaceman** to space words between messages they copy from the chalkboard or chart board. (Tip: Young writers should be placed only a short distance from any passage they are expected to copy.)

Spaceman Hang Ups

Spaceman can also be used to display children's written work from a line or ceiling wire.

Spaceman Go Home

Spaceman is eager to go home with your students! Consider tucking **Spaceman** into a zipper-lock bag with a beginning reader book, or a class book you've prepared with large spaces between words.

Spaceman Game

Mark the back of your **Spacemen** with numbers 1-15. Do it twice, so that you have pairs. Put a **Spaceman**, painted side up, on every child's desk. Play "Concentration," where students pick and choose and try to remember who has what numbers in order for the students to pick pairs.