Our Cosmic Address

A one-page lesson for curious families. Read together, explore, and talk.

Learning goal: Explain where Earth belongs within the Solar System, the Milky Way galaxy, and the universe.



Read from our home outward. Each place belongs within the next. Not to scale.

1 / START WITH THE READ-ALOUD

Our cosmic address starts close to home and keeps widening. We live on Earth, a rocky planet that travels around the Sun. Earth belongs to the Solar System, along with other planets, moons, asteroids, and comets.

Our Solar System is within the Milky Way, a galaxy containing an enormous number of stars and their planetary systems. The Milky Way is one of many galaxies in the universe.

Each place belongs within the next. These enormous distances are hard to picture, but this map helps us locate ourselves.

2 / EXPLORE TOGETHER

Use the read-aloud alone, or add **Solar System 101** by National Geographic (4 minutes). Tap the title to watch.

Children may draw, build, fidget, or stretch while listening. Ask a question afterward and listen for what connected. No purchase or printing is required.

3 / CHOOSE YOUR ADVENTURE

A probe is trying to find your home. Arrange Earth, Solar System, Milky Way, and Universe to guide it from the widest view to Earth.

Say, point to, or sketch the route. Explain what each label adds. No written answer is required.

SMALL START

On a low-capacity day, read the paragraph together and ask one question. You can stop there.

QUESTIONS TO OPEN THINKING

- How is a planet different from a galaxy?
- Where would the Moon fit in this address?
- Which place is easiest to picture? Why?

BORROW A SENTENCE

Choose a line to say, copy, type, or explain in your own words.

“Earth is part of a much larger address.”

“Our Solar System is within the Milky Way.”

OPTIONAL AUDIO / READ-ALOUD

Astrophysics for Young People in a Hurry
Neil deGrasse Tyson
Audiobook read by LeVar Burton.

Read a short section from a copy you have or borrow, or listen together. Pause for questions.
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