



This month's guide is a little different — a double feature! With two fantastic books to explore — *Earth to Kinzie* and *Kinzie and the P.U. Zoo* — there's double the fun and adventure for all of us.

Why the combo, you ask? Well, it's been a busy time here! My daughter just started college, so we've been in the whirlwind of preparation, excitement, and a few tearful goodbyes. In between packing boxes and dorm room shopping, I've also been hard at work on two exciting new projects:

1. A New Look for REACH! — Maybe you've noticed this month's issue looks a bit different. As always, I've kept the link to the downloadable PDF file for the full guide so you have easy access to everything, but to make it more user friendly, I'm hosting the issue on my
2. Introducing Rescue Readers! — A brand-new initiative where young readers can "rescue" a lovable stuffed animal who needs to be read to every day. Stay tuned for more details on how you and your little ones can join in the fun!

So, grab your REACH partner, dive into our two-feature guide, and enjoy this extra-special edition! Happy reading and rescuing!

See you next month!
Donna B.

REACH Editor & Concierge of Children's Book Fun



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This Month's Featured Books: Earth to Kinzie (book #2) AND Kinzie and the P. U. Zoo (book #3)

Earth to Kinzie

Kinzie's ninety-eight fans love her problem-solving videos on her very own Kinzie's Kinventions ViewTube channel! But how do you solve problems like a new wobbly-bobbly-headed baby brother or a know-it-all big sister? Lucky for her, Kinzie doesn't have to invent anything for those problems because her sister tells her a secret. Kinzie's from Jupiter, and her space parents will return for her on her seventh



Suggested for
ages 6-9.



birthday. That's in three days! She can blast off to Jupiter to live with her space parents. Problem solved, easy-peasy c cherry freezie! But what if she misses her Earth mom and dad? Or her friends and pets? Or ... what if Kinzie's sister is just tricking her?



Earth to Kinzie

Discussion Questions for REACH Partners

1. Compare Kinzie's relationship with her sister to your own experiences with siblings or friends. How are they alike? How are they different?
2. Discuss what it would be like to live on another planet. What would you miss most about Earth, and what would you be most excited about?
3. Share your favorite inventions or ideas from the book. Why do you think they're interesting or clever?
4. Can you think of a problem you have that you'd like to find a solution for?

Discussion Questions for Classroom Teachers & Librarians

1. Discuss how Kinzie deals with the challenge of believing she might be from another planet. How does she react to this news, and what does it tell us about her character?
2. Talk about the importance of problem-solving and creativity. How does Kinzie use her imagination to address challenges?
3. Reflect on the theme of sibling relationships. How do Kinzie and her sister interact, and what are the ups and downs of having siblings?

Let's Sing Together!

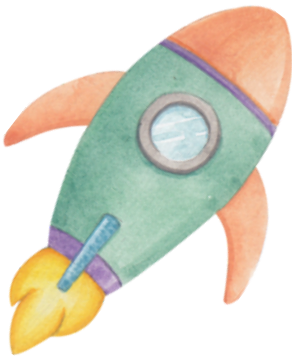
Sing to the tune of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

Rocket Ship to Jupiter



Rocket ship, fly through the sky,
Past the moon, so way up high.
Zooming past the stars so bright,
Heading for a cosmic flight.
Rocket ship to Jupiter,
Off we go, space travelers!

Through the rings of Saturn's spin,
Wave to aliens with a grin!
Bounce on Mars, then take a peek,
At the mountains, red and steep.
Rocket ship to Jupiter,
Off we go, space travelers!



Comets zooming, tails aglow,
Planets spinning, fast and slow.
Past the asteroids, we steer,
Kinzie's journey far and near.
Rocket ship to Jupiter,
Off we go, space travelers!



Are you on the hunt for an out-of-this-world, fuss-free, and no-cost project the kids will be excited to make? Look no further! Grab this DIY Alien papercraft template and let the crafty creativity begin! Just snip, stick, and voilà! The kids will be over the moon with their quirky new alien buddy!

[Click Here to get the printable from the Purple Pumpkin Blog](#)

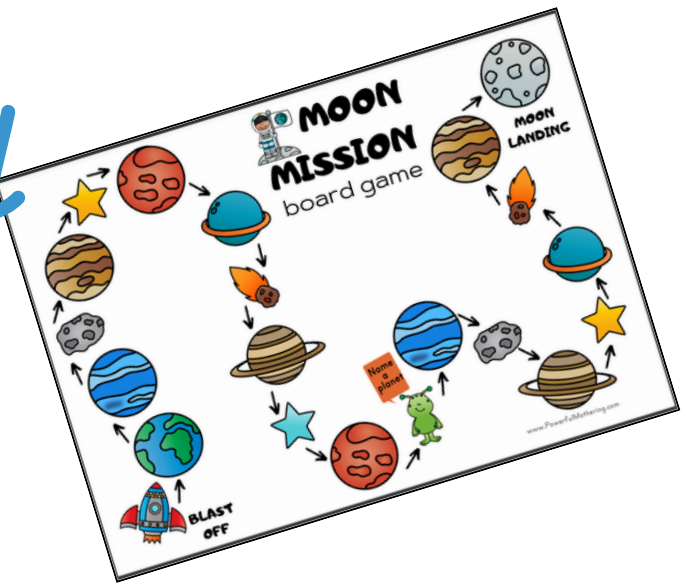


Build an Alien! Free Printable Halloween Paper Craft

Are you looking for a fun, easy, and free Halloween craft to keep the kids busy? Then download our Build an Alien papercraft template!

 The Purple Pumpkin Blog / Mar 28 *Please note this is not created by me*

Let's play



Moon Mission: A Space Board Game created by the folks at PowerfulMothering.com

What You'll Need:

- Obtain your free printable game board from www.PowerfulMothering.com. Print it on cardstock for durability and easy storage.
- Prepare game pieces such as mini erasers, coins, or any small items you have.
- Have one die ready for gameplay.

How to Play Moon Mission:

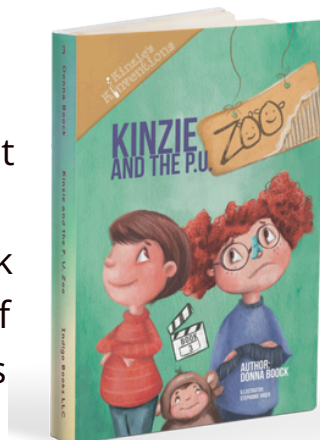
1. Begin at Blast Off.
2. Players take turns rolling the die and moving their game piece accordingly.
3. Be cautious of asteroids and meteors; if you land on them, move one space back.
4. If you land on a star, move one space forward.
5. Encounter an alien? Name a planet you know!

The first player to reach the moon wins!

Please note this is not created by me

Kinzie and the P. U. Zoo (Kinzie's Kinventions book #3)

The whole class is going on a field trip to the zoo! But too bad for classroom rivals Kinzie and Ben. Neither of them can go thanks to getting—and sharing—pink eye. To make it even worse, Ben's mom can't take off from work, which means Ben has to come to Kinzie's house for the day. And there's no time to make a Kinvention to stop that. Kinzie and Ben decide if they can't go on the field trip, maybe they can create their own backyard zoo instead. What could possibly go wrong with that great idea?



Suggested for ages 6-9.



Kinzie and the P. U. Zoo Discussion Guides

Discussion Questions for REACH Partners

1. Share stories of times when you visited a zoo or saw interesting animals. What was your favorite animal and why?
2. Discuss how to handle conflicts, like the one one between Kinzie and Ben. What strategies can you use to make friends with someone who seems difficult?
3. Talk about your favorite "Kinventions" from the book. What would you invent if you could create something for the zoo?



Discussion Questions for Classroom Teachers & Librarians

1. Discuss the idea of responsibility and kindness. How does Kinzie learn about these themes during her time at the zoo?
2. Explore the concept of "karma." What does Kinzie learn about actions and consequences from her experience with Ben?
3. Talk about animal habitats. What kind of environments do different zoo animals need? How do zoos recreate these environments?

Click on the Image to Take a Virtual trip to the San Diego



*P. U. not included

San Diego Zoo
Wildlife Explorers

animals & plants | videos | stories | activities | games | save animals | podcast

videos

watch and learn
Live cams and videos of your favorite animals

live cams

- ape cam
- baboon cam
- burrowing owl cam
- condor cam
- elephant cam
- giraffe cam
- hippo cam
- koala cam
- panda cam
- penguin cam presented by alaska airlines
- platypus cam
- polar bear cam
- red panda cam
- tiger cam



Zoo Animal Paper Bag Puppets

Materials Needed:

- Paper lunch bags
- Construction paper (various colors)
- Markers or crayons
- Googly eyes
- Glue
- Scissors



Instructions:

1. Prepare the Paper Bag:

Place the paper lunch bag flat on a table with the flap facing up. The flap will serve as the animal's face, while the rest of the bag will be the animal's body.

2. Choose Your Zoo Animal. You can create any zoo animal you can imagine (e.g., zebra, elephant, panda, lion, monkey).

3. Use construction paper to cut out the animal's features.

- For a Zebra: Cut out black stripes, ears, and a muzzle.
- For an Elephant: Cut out large floppy ears and a trunk.
- For a Panda: Cut out black circles for eyes, ears, and a nose.
- For a Lion: Cut out a mane (a circular shape with fringe around the edges), ears, and a nose.
- For a Skunk (like in Kinzie's P. U. Zoo): Cut out a white stripe for the forehead, black ears with white inner sections, a red nose, and white ovals for the eyes and muzzle.

OR if you want an almost-done-for-you version, print animal templates from the fine people at WooJr.com by [clicking here](#).

Please note this is not created by me

4. Glue the cut-out features onto the paper bag:

- Face: Attach googly eyes or draw them with markers. Add ears to the sides of the flap (face). For a trunk, muzzle, or nose, glue it on the middle of the flap.
- Body: Decorate the lower part of the bag with stripes, fur patterns, or any details specific to your chosen animal.

5. Add Details:

- Use markers or crayons to add more details, such as spots, stripes, whiskers, or a smile.

6. Allow the glue to dry completely before using the puppet.

7. Once the puppet is dry, slip your hand into the bag, using the flap as the movable mouth. Your Paper Bag Zoo Puppet is ready for its play or storytelling



Enjoy creating different zoo animals and bringing them to life with fun stories!

ZOO MIX



Choose any six (6) of the following ingredients or come up with your own ideas and combine 1 cup of each in a bowl. Portion out into single serve containers for easy, on-the-go snacking!

- Teddy Grahams (any flavor)
- Iced Animal Crackers
- Goldfish crackers (any flavor)
- Dried fruit (raisins, cranberries or other small-sized fruit works best)
- Popped popcorn
- Cheddar Penguin crackers
- Peanuts or other nuts
- Mini marshmallows
- M&Ms
- Chocolate chips
- Mini pretzels
- Your favorite cereal
- Pumpkin seeds
- Sunflower seeds
- Cheddar Penguin crackers

This mix can be made with whatever YOU like best.. Feel free to sprinkle in your favorite sweet or salty goodies. I'd suggest a little bit of both. The flavors balance together so well - not too sugary, not too salty, and perfect for your taste buds.

Introducing the Rescue Readers Project!

At its heart, reading is about connection—between a reader and a story, a child and their caregiver, and even across generations like in REACH Out & Read Together. But what if we could add another layer to that experience? Enter the Rescue Readers project, a new initiative I'm so excited to introduce to you!



What is Rescue Readers?

The idea behind Rescue Readers is simple: kids "adopt" a stuffed animal that has been "rescued" and restored to find a new, loving home. The catch? These adorable critters need lots of love and, more importantly, they need to be read to for at least 20 minutes a day! It's a fun way to encourage daily reading habits in children, while also giving them a new cuddly friend who relies on them for story time.

Think of Rescue Readers as a unique twist on the traditional reading challenge, with a focus on creativity, empathy, and fun. With every story read together, these "rescued" stuffed animals feel more and more at home.

Trying It Out Locally

I'm thrilled to be rolling out the Rescue Readers project at a few local events in the coming months to get started. I'll be at the North Port Community Yard Sale located at City Hall, 4970 City Hall BLVD, North Port, FL, 34286 on two dates:

- Saturday, September 21, 2024 | 08:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Saturday, November 02, 2024 | 08:00 AM - 12:00 PM

At these events, I'll be rehoming Rescue Readers and each comes with a book to start off their reading connection. If time allows, I'll even host some impromptu storytimes!

I'm also actively seeking out other face-to-face opportunities as well. From community gatherings to local farmers' markets, I'm hoping to bring along a collection of books and stuffed animals ready to be adopted by young readers!

This grassroots approach allows me to gather feedback, see firsthand how kids respond to the concept, and adjust as needed. It's a joy to see little ones light up when they hear they get to "rescue" a plush friend, and it's heartening to watch them proudly commit to their reading challenge.

Exploring Online and Classroom Options

But why stop there? As much as I love these in-person events, I know there are so many more kids who could benefit from the magic of Rescue Readers! That's why I'm also exploring ways to bring this project online. Imagine signing up for a Rescue Readers program virtually, where kids could select their stuffed animal online, receive it by mail with a book, and share their reading journeys through fun digital challenges and story-sharing sessions.

I'm also in talks with local educators and literacy advocates about how Rescue Readers could find a home in classrooms and at family literacy nights. Imagine the excitement of a class-wide "Rescue Mission," where each student adopts an animal, tracks their reading, and shares their progress with their peers. It could be a great way to build community, foster a love of reading, and engage even reluctant readers.

Join the Adventure!

I can't wait to see where this project goes, and I'm looking forward to all the ways it can grow and evolve. If you're a teacher, librarian, or literacy advocate, let's talk! I'd love to collaborate on how we can bring Rescue Readers to your school, library, or organization.

Stay tuned for updates and join me in spreading the joy of reading—one rescued reader at a time!

