

EVEREADY®



Make a Night of It!

When the sun goes down, the learning ramps up!

Evening may mean bedtime, but it can also be the perfect time for family fun—reading, playing games, and gazing up at the night sky. Pack a bag with snacks, a blanket, a flashlight, a few extra batteries, and your kid's favorite book. Stash it by the door. When the urge to explore strikes, grab the bag and turn your early bird into a night owl with these age-by-age suggestions. Find more great activities and printables at scholastic.com/readingunderthestars.

Ages 3-4 BEASTIE BINGO

Preschoolers love critters and board games, so pair the two with a homemade bingo board. Make four bingo boards from 8" x 8" cardstock. Draw 16 2" x 2" squares. Place a sticker of a different nocturnal animal—think bats, owls, mice, raccoons, crickets, or hamsters—in each square. Or print out pictures you find online, then glue them to the squares. Create a list of all the animals for you to call out in random order. Give each player a handful of colored buttons to use to track their matches. When one player gets four in a row vertically, horizontally, or diagonally, it's "Bingo!"

Ages 5-7 SIT, LISTEN, LOOK

Break away from your usual noisy, busy day ... after hours! Camping in your backyard is a sure way to help your kids appreciate the sights and sounds of night. Once everyone's gotten cozy, drag the sleeping bags out of the tent. Ask your kids to sit quietly on top of

them, close their eyes, and listen carefully for a few minutes. Then talk about what they've heard. Did it seem like they could hear more than usual? Was that sound an owl?

Next, have them lie back down to look up at the stars. Ask them how many stars they think we can see. (The answer: The universe has billions, but we can only see about 2,000. The rest are too dim or too far away.) Can they tell the difference between a star and a planet? (Stars twinkle, but planets give off a steady light.)

Ages 8-10 OVER THE MOON

On clear nights, have your kiddo put on his headlamp, draw a picture of the moon and write down the date and time. As the weeks pass, you'll have a record of the moon's phases. This activity can jumpstart several lunar discussions. For example, point out that as the moon circles Earth, different parts are lit up by the sun, which is why its shape seems to change from day to day.

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