

## Pin the Star on the Sky Activity

Many of the 88 constellations were named after mythological characters by the Greeks centuries ago.

This activity will help your child understand that constellations are groupings of stars that appear to form a pattern or picture in the night sky. By creating their own constellations the children will also learn about the process of how these star groupings were identified long ago!

### What You Need:

- ❖ Star stickers
- ❖ Blindfold (optional)
- ❖ Precut sheet of large white paper (approximately 2 x 3 feet)
- ❖ Masking tape
- ❖ Various craft items such as colored glitter, glue, crayons, paint, sequins, etc.



### What to Do:

- ❖ Using masking tape, tape a sheet of white paper to an area on the wall about the child's chest height.
- ❖ Ask your child to close his or her eyes – or, if they are comfortable, place a blindfold over their eyes.
- ❖ Have the child stand several feet away from the paper.
- ❖ Place a star sticker in your child's hand, spin your child around a few times, and have him or her walk to the paper (you may help!) and place the 'sticky star' on the paper.
- ❖ Repeat the process for several more star stickers (5-10 should do it!)
- ❖ Remove blindfold
- ❖ Ask your child to use their imagination to connect the stars to form a design, or to create a constellation around the stars. Color and use craft items to decorate the creation!
- ❖ Have your child name his or her constellation and create a story about the object represented in the constellation.

Parent Prompts:

*What is a constellation? (A group of stars that appear to form a pattern or picture)*

*How might the constellations have gotten their names? (Many of them were named long ago by different cultures based on what they imagined the star groupings to look like – they often matched the constellations with gods and goddesses or characters of their stories)*

Adapted from:

[http://www.lpi.usra.edu/education/skytellers/constellations/activities/star\\_darts.shtml](http://www.lpi.usra.edu/education/skytellers/constellations/activities/star_darts.shtml)