



# School-Home Connection

Your child is reading “Visitors from Space” by Jeanne Bendick. This nonfiction selection explains why comets have tails, how comets orbit the sun, and much more. You may enjoy discussing the selection and doing these activities with your child. Together you can develop and explore your child’s language skills.

## Explore the Solar System

Talk about the solar system with your child. To find more information that you can explore together, look for these books in your local library:

- *The Magic School Bus Lost in the Solar System* by Joanna Cole. Scholastic, 1990.
- *Moons and Rings: Companions to the Planets* by Jeanne Bendick. Millbrook, 1991.
- *Comets and Shooting Stars* by Patrick Moore. Copper Beech, 1994.

## VOCABULARY

### Space Words

The following words are new vocabulary your child has learned while reading “Visitors from Space”:

force	loops
nucleus	particles
solar wind	fluorescent

Discuss with your child how these words relate to comets and our solar system. Together you might think of other ways these words are used; for example, the *force* of the wind, *loops* around a track, *fluorescent* paint.



### TIME TO READ

Encourage your child to read for at least 30 minutes outside of class each day.

## View the Night Sky

If possible, visit a planetarium with your child or view the sky on a clear night. You might also check out books on astronomy from a library. Have your child draw a picture of what he or she observes, such as the Moon or the Big Dipper. Help him or her label the picture with the date, the place, the time and a brief caption. Your child can later share the night sky picture with classmates.

