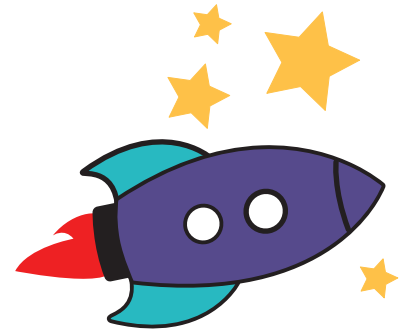




Zoom



Notes:

- ☆ There are only dialogue suggestions as I worked with young children who responded readily to the 'plot' and came up with their own ideas.
- ☆ We made the rocket out of large pieces of cardboard, covering them with silver foil paper. They fitted together like a simple jigsaw puzzle. The eight pieces (2 for the nose cone, the others for the body) were 'worked on' in the first song (with giant cardboard hammers, pliers etc) and then assembled on stage, the children holding them in place with handles glued to the back. The rocket was always rather wobbly, but it shook beautifully when up 'in space' and collapsed very effectively when it 'landed' at the end of the second song. The pieces were then put to one side to make room for the other planet scenes. The rocket was reassembled for the journey home.
- ☆ The crew of the ship had shiny bands worn diagonally.
- ☆ Wood, plastic and metal people had different shaped pieces of cardboard to hold, large enough to reach from neck to toe. Wood had pieces that looked like planks, plastic had curvy shaped ones, and for the metal people we covered the cardboard with gold and silver foil paper.
- ☆ The telly watchers had square green 'spectacles' or glasses.
- ☆ The blue people had blue 'hair', made from crepe paper attached to a headband.
- ☆ The Maths aliens held numbers, and the square number train had 10 square 'carriages' which corresponded to the number... one of a single colour (1x1), one with four squares (2x2), one with nine squares (3x3), and so on, up to a hundred.

We had a lot of fun making the props and staging the show and I hope you do, too.



Scene 1 - Earth

Children are individually hauling pieces of a spaceship around, trying to fix things, and having no success.



Suggested lines:

“This is too heavy for me.”

“Where does this bit go?”

“I can’t find a hammer.”

“I can’t fix this on my own.”

During the song, they gradually partner each other, find tools and manage to build the rocket.



SONG 1.

BUILDING THE SPACESHIP

I know I can’t build a spaceship on my own
I know I can’t build a spaceship on my own
I know I can’t build a spaceship on my own... But if we help each other
We’ll build our spaceship together
Come on we’ll do it
Working together we’ll do it

You hold the hammer and I’ll get the pliers
You twist the spanner and I’ll fix the wires
Here’s the saw and here’s the glue
You help me and I’ll help you... And if we help each other
We’ll build our spaceship together
We’ll build our spaceship together

Safety and strength with an asteroid shield
Protection against any magnetic field
And everything must be hermetically sealed
Come on we’ll do it
Working together we’ll do it

Spanners and tools for the urgent repairs
We must be prepared and take plenty of spares
A few books to read and some comfortable chairs

Come on we’ll do it
There we are we’ve done it
Working together we’ve done it
Look at the spaceship we have made
Look at the spaceship we have made
Look at the spaceship we have made



Scene 2 - in the spaceship

The spaceship stands gleaming on the stage. More children arrive.



“Wow! What a fantastic spaceship!”

“I just made it with my friends”

“We all worked together, and everyone helped.”

“Our planet has a lot of problems, so we’re going to look for some answers out in space.”

“Good idea, can I come too?”

They take the tool box but accidentally leave a spanner, some wires and a hammer on the stage.



SONG 2.

STEP INTO OUR SPACESHIP

Step into our spaceship we will take you far away
Step into our spaceship we will take you far away
We’ll see a million stars gliding past the sparkling Milky Way
We’ll find unknown places alien spaces where we’ve never been before

Step into our spaceship
Step into our spaceship
10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1
Blast off!

Starship, starship, floating in space

Help somethings wrong
It’s meant to go ting not bing, bang, bong!
What shall we do? It’s hard to steer
We’ll have to land on a planet near here

Down we go now, down we go now, down we go
What a bump, what a bump, bit of a bump!



Scene 3 - first part of Material Planet, home to the Wood People

The children discover the toolbox is empty.



“What’s wrong with the spaceship?”

“There’s a bit broken here”

“Bring the toolbox.”

“Oh no, we’ve left the tools at home!”

“I need a hammer and some wires.”

“Where are we going to find them?”

Strange people enter. They are the Wood people.

The children ask for some wood and metal to make a hammer, but the Wood People are shocked at the idea of using metal. They tell the children the Metal People live somewhere else on the planet. They’ve not been in touch with them for years. The Wood People extol the virtues of wood, and give the children a handle for their hammer.



SONG 3.

WOOD IS GOOD

(Chorus)

Wood! Wood! It’s very good!

Everything here is made out of wood

Wood! Wood! It’s very good!

We’re grainy and we’re brainy and we’re made out of wood

Oak is solid, willows bendy

Teak is oily, pine is trendy

Sow a seed you’ll get all you need from trees

We call it wood

Its very good

(Chorus)

Sitting on your wooden chairs

Climbing up those wooden stairs

Lying in your wooden bed

With beams above your head

They’re made of wood

And wood is good

It’s very good!



Scene 4 - second part of the Material Planet, home to the Metal People

The children journey to the Metal part of the planet. They ask the Metal People for the hammer head and some wires, which they are given, but the wires are bare and they need plastic insulation for them. The Plastic People live further on, but there is no communication between the Metal People and the other two groups. The Metal People are full of praise for every kind of metal under the sun... or under any other sun.

SONG 4. METAL

Iron and steel for boats and trains
Battleships and aeroplanes
For your mansion pewter plates
Silver goblets wrought iron gates

It makes cogs and wheels in our sewing machines
Tins for cakes and cans for beans
Cranes that rise up in the sky
Heavy lorries trundling by

One pure metal keeps on gleaming
Keeps on shining, keeps us dreaming
Even when it's a thousand years old
And its found underground
It will shine again and glow again
It's gold, It's gold, it's gold



Scene 5 - third part of Material Planet, home to the Plastic People

The children find the Plastic People, who hop about the stage and are very bouncy. They are quite happy to give them some plastic for their wires, but they don't want to talk to the other inhabitants of the planet.

SONG 5. PLASTIC IS FANTASTIC

(Chorus)

Plastic is fantastic
It's colourful and bright
And waterproof and light
Yes plastic is fantastic
It's very useful tough stuff!

Rulers, pens and paper clips
Buttons, press studs, books and zips
There's even synthetic elastic
But best of all is p-p-p-p-plastic!

(Chorus)

Plastic is fantastic
It's colourful and bright
And waterproof and light
Yes plastic is fantastic
It's very useful tough stuff!

Lycra swimsuits, nylon shirts
Polyester socks and skirts
We're all enthusiastic
If it's made of modern p-p-p-p-plastic!

(Chorus)

Plastic is fantastic
It's colourful and bright
And waterproof and light
Yes plastic is fantastic
It's very useful tough stuff!
Tough stuff!



Scene 6 - Material Planet

Overcome by curiosity, the Wood and Metal People have followed the children, and are now lurking at the sides of the stage. The three groups eye each other up, full of uncertainty and doubt. Gradually a whisper starts, and builds into a chant. As it gathers momentum, the groups get braver, until the beginning of the song, when they all start making friends, shaking hands and dancing about together



CHANT: I WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND (spoken or chanted a few at a time, then all together)

I'd like to make friends, but I don't want to look a fool,
Everybody says that being on our own is cool,
I'd like to talk, but what can I say?
Working together would be a better way.
Oh, what a problem! Oh what a mess we're in!
How can we solve it? Where can we begin?
Have I got the courage, to stand up on my own, and find a new way?
I've only got to say: 'Hey! You! I want to be your friend!
Yeah! Hey! You! I want to be your friend!'



SONG 6. I'LL BE YOUR FRIEND

(Chorus)
Hey you, come over here
Let's make it clear
It's never too late to get things straight, yeah
Hey you, come over here
Let's make it clear
The feud's at an end
And I'll be your friend

Settle for metal with wood and plastic
The combinations are quite fantastic
Put them together and try something new
Mix 'em and match 'em, you never know what you can do

(Chorus)



Scene 7 - TV Planet

The children get the spaceship working again with their new tools, and they take off. They comment on the outcome of their visit to the Material Planet.



“It’s great that they are talking to each other now.”
“Yes, and they’ll be able to make so many more things using different materials.”

Our space travellers are rather lost, so they decide to land on another planet to see if they can find their way home. They discover a group of aliens all staring at a screen. They try to talk to them, but they just get



“Sh! I’m watching this programme.”
“I’m busy, this is really interesting.”

During the song, the children try to get the Tellywatchers to stand up, but they just collapse again into a sitting, watching position, and take no notice.



SONG 7.

TELLY WATCHERS

(Chorus)

We sit and watch the telly cos we don’t know what to do
This programmes very interesting so we won’t talk to you
And if we want a change we just switch over to another
Remote control in one hand and a sandwich in the other

We sit and watch the world go by no matter what the weather
If anyone attempts to speak we all say ‘Sh!’ together
But is there something missing from our life, we like to know
Is there something we could do or is there somewhere we could go?
Anywhere we could go?

Turn the telly off your eyes have gone square
Turn the telly off get out of your chair
Turn the telly off there’s plenty to do
Turn the telly off and try something new

(Chorus)



Scene 8 - TV Planet

The children describe some exciting things to do and the TV aliens gradually join in. They do this unwillingly at first, but they soon get into the spirit of adventure. After the song, the travellers set off again, looking for Earth.



SONG 8.

GIVE IT A GO

Try trampolining, fall on your face
Look at the stars and zoom out into space
Get off the couch and put on a show
Sing out of tune but come on, give it a go

What shall we do?
What shall we do?
There are a hundred million things you can do
T
ry making models, they fall apart
That doesn't matter you have made a start
Learn how to dance and go to a disco
Just feel the rhythm
Come on, come on, come on, come on, come on give it a go!

You won't find that it's always easy, you won't find you can do it in a day
You'll have failures as well as successes but if you try you will find a way
Find a way, yes, you'll find a way

Go to the library pick up a book
Find a new recipe, learn how to bake and cook
Visit your family, uncles and aunts
Play with your cousins, come on give them a chance

There's more to do!
There's more to do!
We'll find a zillion trillion things you can do.

Learn how to swim or go for a run
Find a new friend and you'll have lots of fun
Plant a few seeds and they will soon grow
You'll have a garden
Come on, come on, come on, come on
Come on and give it a go, give it a go, give it a go!



Scene 9 - in the spaceship

Our valiant space travellers realise they are no nearer finding their way home, and they start feeling sad, missing home comforts.



SONG 9.

HOMESICK

I am feeling a little bit homesick
And if you've travelled far you'll know what I mean
I am missing my family a little bit
Running around with my friends
Staying up late till the film on TV ends

And then they say "No more play"
Tucked up tight say "Goodnight"
Put out the light
Put out the light
Till another day



Scene 10 - the spaceship

Right on cue, the Blue People bounce into the spaceship, intent on helping the children keep a brave face in their tricky situation. They do this by singing and dancing the blues away. During the song the children gradually cheer up. After the song, the Blue People suggest the travellers go to the Mathematical Planet, where there are people who are very good at giving directions.



CHASING THE BLUES AWAY

We're the blue people, how do you do?
You're looking sad so we've come to visit you
We haven't come to quarrel, we haven't come to fight
We've come to chase the blues away and make the world seem bright

We're going to cheer you up, we'll take a twiddly twirl
And to and fro we'll heel and toe and walk a wiggly whirl
For there's one thing that we do all day
It's chasing the blues away, oh yeah, chasing the blues away!

You needn't feel so blue just try a smile and soon
You will hum a little tune and fly off to the moon
Choose to shake off all your blues
You've got nothing left to lose
Just your worried frown
That only gets you down

We're feeling better, we're feeling great
We can dance the blues away from early until late
You've made us feel so happy, you've chased away the blues
We're hopping and we're bopping and we've found our dancing shoes

We think we've found the secret, it's what we're looking for
To keep the planet spinning round we'll hop and bop some more
For there's one thing that we do all day,
It's chasing the blues away, oh yeah, chasing the blues away!



Scene 11 - the Mathematical Planet

The children find themselves in a world of numbers and shapes.



SONG 11.

MATHS ALIENS

We like to be mathematical
 And geometrical
 We've an elliptical moon
 We learned our addition
 From a musician
 We practise our sums to a tune
 We like a bit of action
 When we do subtraction
 Like five minus two is three
 Our cars are octagonal
 Our boats are pentagonal
 And here's a hexagonal tree.

Can you count in twos yet?
 Two, four, six, eight
 Up we go in odd,
 One, three, five, seven, nine
 Down we go
 Nine, seven, five, three, one
 We're doing fine, we've just begun
 Nine, eight, seven, six, five, five, four, three, two, one

You'll find you need to learn division
 With lots of repetition
 Like threes into six go two
 And multiplication requires dedication
 To stick in your head like glue
 So please just hang on a tick
 We've got a special trick
 You'll see the premiere
 There's no time to slumber
 We'll multiply a number
 And make it into a square



Scene 12 - the Mathematical Planet

With great dash, the master of ceremonies introduces the square number train.

▶ SONG 12. THE SQUARE NUMBER TRAIN

Once one is one
We've just begun
It's easy, don't you see?
Two twos are four
It's not much more
And now we come to three.
Three threes are nine
They're all in a line
Three in the chain
Will they stay in your brain?
For this is the square number train.

Choo choo choo choo choo
Choo choo choo choo choo
Choo choo choo choo choo choo!

Four fours are sixteen
The biggest we've yet seen
And five fives are twenty five
Six times six is thirty six, these numbers are really alive
Seven sevens are forty nine
They sparkle and shine
Seven in the chain
Will they stay in your brain?
For this is the square number train.

Choo choo choo choo choo
Choo choo choo choo choo
Choo choo choo choo choo choo!

Eight times eight is sixty four
There's only time for just two more
Nine times nine is eighty one
It's multiplication fun!
Ten times ten is a hundred, a ton
They go on forever but now we're done
Ten in the chain
Will they stay in your brain?
For this is the square number train!



Scene 13 - the spaceship

The Maths Aliens give the children a map so that they can find their way home. The children get in the spaceship to go back to Earth.

SONG 13. STEP INTO OUR SPACESHIP (REPRISE)

Step into our spaceship we'll go home to Earth again
Step into our spaceship we'll go home to Earth again
We'll see a million stars gliding past the sparkling Milky Way,
We've seen unknown places, alien spaces, where we've never been
before

Step into our spaceship
Step into our spaceship
10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1
Blast off!

Starship, starship, floating in space
Down we go now, down we go now, down we go
Back on Earth
Back on Earth
Home again



Scene 14 - Earth

The children are relieved to be back on Earth. They talk about the adventures they've had and the places they've been: how they helped the Wood, Metal and Plastic people become friends, how they encouraged the TV watchers to be more active, and how they were helped by the positive attitude of the Blue People. They talk about how sometimes people need help to find their way.

SONG 14. FOLLOW YOUR STAR

Inside us all is a light shining brightly
Hope for the world where we all play a part
Be strong and be steadfast in your faith and your living
Be true to yourself and be true in your heart

And we will follow our star, follow our star
Follow our star and believe in our worth
And we will follow our star, follow our star
Follow our star to the ends of the earth

You'll never reach the horizon there's always more to see
Our planet Earth is full of life for all to share, for you and me
So keep on hoping and we'll find the way to go
And we'll create a bit of heaven, down here on earth below

Trust in yourself and believe you are free
To travel on further to where you want to be
I'll be the friend who will walk another mile
We'll leap over hurdles and land with a smile



Scene 15 - Earth

The children decide that their adventures have made them realise that there is no answer out there in space that isn't already here on Earth, and that they hold all the solutions to earthly problems in their own hearts.

▶ SONG 15. ZOOM

We zoomed out into space
Tried to save the human race
Round the galaxies we flew
Met some friendly aliens who
Told us we already knew ev'rything we need to do

The answers are inside us
More to join than divide us
Here's a step we recommend
To bring our problems to an end
And get the world back on the mend
Shake hands and make a friend

When you're feeling down don't lie in bed so late
Find a job to do, you'll soon be feeling great
Get a hobby, have adventures
Read a book or make a pie
If you're busy you'll be happy and the days go rushing by

Friendship is the key
I'll help you and you help me
Faith can move a mountain so let's get digging here below
Spade and shovel, rake and hoe, where did that mountain go?

One Earth, one moon, one sun
Plenty for ev'ryone
Shining seas and golden sands, sunny skies and golden sands
Ev'ry body understands Planet Earth is in our hands
Ev'ry body understands Planet Earth is in our hands