

# Toys in Space

Mini Grey



## Introduction

**Toys in Space** is an imaginative and beautifully illustrated story by the highly talented picture book maker Mini Grey. It explores what might happen if toys are forgotten and left in the garden overnight. Through a story within a story the toys and the reader go on a journey into space. This simple book has some very important themes including being frightened and making good or bad choices. Talking about what happens in the story will enable you to discuss

some of these ideas with your child.

## Reading the story

**Read the story** to your child and enjoy it together stopping to talk about what happens when your child wants to discuss the pictures or what is happening.

## Talking about the story

Ask children to choose their **favourite page** and tell you what they like about it

**Talk about the story** WonderDoll told and anything they liked or didn't like about it.

WonderDoll told a story to stop the toys feeling frightened - you might want to discuss the sorts of things that stop your child feeling frightened and if they think sharing a story makes them feel better.

Should the Hoctopize should have taken the toys? Discuss what your child thinks and why they think he did this.

## Story play

**Make a collection of toys** and have a go at describing them together like

Wonderdoll does eg '*a thoughtful green dinosaur.*' Give children a zig zag book to draw their toys and make captions with their descriptions of them.

**Give your child some address labels** to attach to some toys to be delivered to different rooms in the house/ people in the family.

Have a toys' tea party and play musical statues or other party games.

### Things to make and do

Give your child some black and white art materials to **make a space picture** with whirls, dots and dashes. For example using chalk on a chalkboard or white paint on black paper.

Make a Hoctopize together or another Alien puppet using an old glove or mitten with stick on eyes and other details. Make up a name for it.

**Make up a new story together** about your alien puppet. You could record the story so your child can listen to it again.

**Make party hats for the toys' tea party** – there are some templates on Mini Grey's website.

Make a poster for a missing toy.

### Finding out more

Find out about Mini Grey and her other books here <http://minigrey.com/>

This website includes an activity for each book – there are space themed party hat templates for Toys in Space

### Templates:

Zig zag book

Address label

Missing toy Poster?

Link to Mini grey site toys in space page for toy party hats

Glove puppet – I can make and photograph?

