Customs House MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER

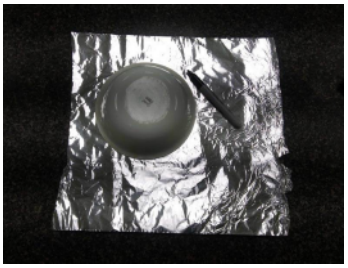
GAZE & MAKE:

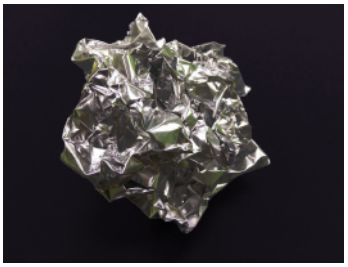
Moon Gazing & Sensory Moon Craft

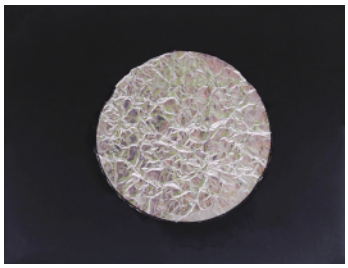
Just because we're social distancing doesn't mean we can't take pleasure in going outside on a clear night to get some fresh air. In this activity, we take a closer look at the moon; then little ones will enjoy creating a sensory craft that depicts the moon and its craters. Viewing the moon is recommended between Monday, May 4–Monday, May 11, with the best viewing being when the moon is full, Thursday night May 7. You can get a nice look with the naked eye, but you can get a spectacular view with just a regular pair of binoculars. Point out the grayish areas on the surface of the moon; these are craters. Check out the instructions below to make your own version of the moon and its craters!

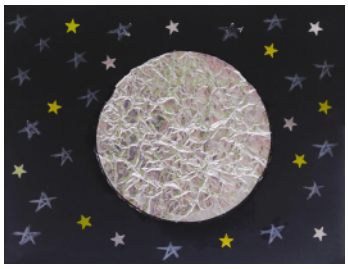
MATERIALS:

Pair of binoculars (optional)
Sheet of aluminum foil (preferably heavy-duty)
Black construction paper
Adhesive stars or white colored pencil or crayon
Round object (like a bowl) to trace the shape of the moon onto the aluminum foil
Sharpie marker or other pen
Scissors
Glue









DIRECTIONS:

Lay out a piece of aluminum foil and use the bowl and pen to trace the shape of the moon onto the aluminum foil.

Help your child cut the moon out of the foil. Put it aside.

Put the black construction paper in front of your child.

Give your child the foil moon and tell them to make it look more like the surface of the real moon; they are going to crumple it into a ball—but not too tight (if it's too tightly crumpled, it will fall apart when they try to flatten it out).

Have your child carefully open the foil ball and gently flatten the moon onto the piece of construction paper. As they do so, encourage them to explore the bumpy texture, and talk about moon craters. Notice the shiny appearance [demonstrates how the light from the sun reflects off the moon]. Does the real moon sometimes shine at night?

Help your child glue their moon onto the construction paper.

They can add stars to the night sky by using adhesive stars or draw stars using a white colored pencil or crayon on the black construction paper.

DISCUSS:

The surface of the moon is full of thousands of craters. For billions of years, space rocks (asteroids and meteors) have been hurtling through outer space and crashing into the moon's surface. When these hit the moon, they explode like bombs, making jagged holes that average between 9 to 15 miles in diameter. To learn a little about why the moon has so many craters and the Earth doesn't, visit **spaceplace.nasa.gov/craters**