**Taking off Going up On your own!**

This is a topic for use at the end of the school year as the students reflect on the year and their learning and look ahead to the next year. Begin with “Taking Off!” and encourage students to think about how they have taken off. (I planned this for a combined kindergarten/first grade class.)

1. Taking Off! Use rockets.

Think about how you have taken off – what have you already learned? What can you do on your own?

Read *Rocket Learns to Read* and discuss how you have learned your letters and are learning to read.

Watch a rocket launch – (the first 50 seconds) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gL1dEBZ6Vyc>

Writing – write a sentence of how you have taken off.

Move a rocket shape up from the bottom of the board as you read words or do math problems.

1. Going Up! Use hot air balloons.

Think of how you are going up – what are you learning that is helping you grow up?

Show hot air balloons at the International Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque, NM at <http://www.balloonfiesta.com/event-info/photo-contest>.

Writing – write a sentence telling how you are going up; what are you learning now that is helping you to grow up?

1. On Your Own! Use jets.

Think of what you can do on your own.

Listen to jet sounds. <http://www.soundsnap.com/tags/airplane_take_off>

Writing – write a sentence about what you can do on your own.

We made posters of this with 12”x18” paper, cut-out shapes of hot air balloons, and pictures of jets and rockets which the children colored and cut out. These shapes were glued onto the paper. The three sentences were written on sticky notes and attached to the shape they went with. (We also put glue on the notes.) The following titles were cut out and glued with their corresponding pictures and sentences.

**Taking off!**

**Going up!**

**On my own!**