Sequencing Rationale

The Astronomy and Space science unit is sequenced from the larger concept of the Milky Way Galaxy to the Earth's Moon. First, the learner will learn that the Earth is part of the Milky Way Galaxy. They will learn that the galaxy is made up of stars, planets and other celestial bodies. They will learn the differences between each of the parts of our Solar System. They will learn about stars and that the Sun which is the star at the center of our Solar System. They will learn about the properties of the Sun and the importance it has to life on Earth. They will learn about the characteristics of the Earth and its atmosphere. They will learn about the orbit of the Earth and other planets around the Sun. Then, they will learn how the rotation of the earth causes day and night. They will learn about the revolution of the Earth around the Sun and how this causes seasons. The will learn to describe the orbit of the Moon around the Earth and at least four major phases of the Moon. They will learn to describe how the gravitational pull of the Moon causes tides on the Earth. Next, they will learn to describe lunar and solar eclipses. Lastly, they will learn to describe the effects of climate change on the Earth.