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Personal Space Camp
Synopsis
Louis is back! And this time, he's learning all about personal space. Louis, a self-taught space expert is delighted to learn that his teacher has sent him to the principal's office to attend personal space camp. Eager to learn more about lunar landings, space suits, and other cosmic concepts, Louis soon discovers that he has much to learn about personal space right here on earth. Written with style, wit, and rhythm, personal space camp addresses the complex issue of respect for another person's physical boundaries. Told from Louis perspective, this story is a must-have resource for parents, teachers, and counselors who want to communicate the idea of personal space in a manner that connects with kids.

Book Information
Paperback: 32 pages
Publisher: National Center for Youth Issues; 1 edition (March 1, 2007)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 1931636877
Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 9 x 8 inches
Shipping Weight: 5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars – See all reviews (142 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #1,769 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #3 in Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Counseling   #12 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Social Skills
Age Range: 5 - 8 years
Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews
This book is great for those k-3rd grade kids who don't seem to understand that not everyone wants them in their face. Lois goes about his day crashing into people (flying through space) and is told he would have to go to Personal Space Camp. He is all excited because he imagines that he'll be flying rockets or getting to eat astronaut's ice cream. When he sees hoola hoops on the floor, he is confused... I love the gray pictures of Lois's imagination and how he views his world (or more appropriately, his out-of-this-world) experiences. At the end he finally realizes that he had misunderstood what others had been saying all along. The humor is just what this topic needs and it allows the kids to grow without being embarrassed.
Julia Cook’s books are an absolute hit with our students. I was ecstatic when I found Personal Space Camp. I’d already been using My Mouth Is A Volcano to reinforce school skills like raising your hand and waiting your turn to talk. But what about when kids are in each others space during ‘carpet time’ or pushing and shoving in the cafeteria line? These behaviors can make instruction difficult and cause a lot of teacher angst. I don’t know how many times I’ve had to say, ‘Please, keep your hands to yourself.’ Personal Space Camp is a life saver book. Angst will be decreased! Okay, so in defense of the kids - developmentally it’s really difficult to sometimes be in control of yourself. Kids need to move and wiggle around. However, they need extra guidance building awareness of themselves and those around them before the wiggling offends another student. When there are 20 some bodies in a classroom - we have to learn to work and live together. And newsflash - negative reinforcement doesn’t build awareness - it just makes kiddos feel bad. I use Personal Space Camp as a social awareness teaching tool because it makes kids feel GOOD about themselves. They love learning about the concept of personal space and how it can affect others positively and negatively. Most importantly, the story is engaging and Louis is a VERY likeable character. We also copy Louis and use the same strategies in the book. The kids love being jammed into a hula hoop and reflection gets those light bulbs flashing about personal space. And here is the best part, author Julia Cook wrote a supplementary activity and idea book!! Activities galore! I got my hands on it this Spring and started integrating the lessons in small groups. The main reason the guide rocks is because the activities provide cool visuals for the students. Yep, your lessons on personal space just got even MORE engaging! Educators, get this one on your shelf. When teaching classroom routines, make this part of your curriculum.

I use this book as a teaching tool in social groups to talk about personal space and respecting others space. The book gives great examples of what is personal space when sitting, standing, waiting in line, etc. I love the humor used by the author to help kids understand that not everyone gets it at first about space. The main character finally gets it at the end about his relationship to others and that he wasn’t attending a planetary space camp! Great story!

I bought this book for my son, who is 3.5, and having some personal space issues in preschool. There aren’t many personal space books out there so I purchased a variety of similar books, hoping that something would resonate with him. This review is for parents of kids the same age, who might find themselves in a similar situation. My son loves reading, so I was hoping this
story would hit home for him. However, although the publisher says age 4/preschool and up, it is a bit lengthy for someone his age. I have tried a few times, but so far we have only made it about halfway through the book before he loses interest. It is a cute concept, but I definitely feel like it is more for kids of elementary school age. When my son hears and sees space and rockets, he thinks literally of space and rockets and has a hard time transitioning to the concept of personal space. Granted, I think personal space is hard to describe to a 3 year old because it is so abstract. However, my son has seemed to take more interest in "Cool Down and Work Through Anger" by Cheri Meiners. Although that one isn’t directly related to personal space, it does give examples of one kid jostling another and makes the point that you should keep your hands to yourself. The text was also shorter, so I managed to keep my son’s attention through the whole thing. I am hoping this is a book my son will grow into.

We were having a hard time trying to explain to our four year old son that he needed to stay out of people’s space. It just didn’t seem to make sense to him that people may not want him so close to them. This book was perfect! He was fascinated by the story and you could really see things start to click for him. We are sure to use some of the buzz terms found in the book when he’s in our “space bubble”. We also brought the book to his pre-school (who after an earlier conversation) read the book during story time and then did a few of the exercises that Louis does in the story. Within a week there was a remarkable improvement. What a great resource for parents and teachers!!!

Love this book! As a clinical social worker who works with young children with a variety of behavioral and psychological problems, I am always looking for books that are easily understood by children while providing a therapeutic component. This book definitely meets those criteria. The kids enjoy this book and there is always ample opportunity for me to expand our discussion about personal space.

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