The unit that I have created is a second grade cross curricular unit covering Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Language Arts Content Standards. Because I believe in differentiated instruction, this unit could easily be adapted for students at higher or lower levels of cognitive abilities. All students are expected to reach the Ohio Academic Content Standards by the end of the year and this will help them to do so. Adjusting the amount of information and difficulty of each project, all students will be able to reach the benchmarks and learning outcomes created for this unit. This unit is focused on the theme of Space and will take approximately 5-6 weeks.

Because of the range of different developmental levels usually found in second grade, I have chosen to focus on the Familiarity sequence rationale located in the Learning-related sequence rationale. I am aware that the World Related sequence could very easily focus on the science portions of this unit but because it is so cross curricular, I decided not to go with that rationale.

This unit would start by focusing on the stars, the sun, and the moon. These topics are usually of great interest to students and they are familiar with some of the major details and characteristics associated with these concepts. We would then move to the slightly more difficult and less familiar characteristics. For example, students can observe the moon and describe the changes it makes but they will not know the actual phases or reasons for the phases until later in the unit. The planets will be the last concept that is introduced and studied. Students in second grade sometimes can name a few planets but that is about the extent of their knowledge until they participate in more learning activities and projects dealing with the planets. The Social Studies, Mathematics, and Language Arts activities fit in very well with this unit. Students at this age enjoy connections between content areas. It helps them understand the material and apply deeper level skills when connections are made present to them.

I believe that many different rationales could be put into place with this unit but I chose this rationale based on the ages, developmental levels, and interests of second grade students.