



"Ready on the firing line! Ten, nine . . ."

Countdown at

CAPE KINDERGARTEN



Countdown halts while missileman gets helmet adjusted.



With spectators clear of firing line, safety engineers make last-minute check of rocket.

"SEVEN, SIX, five, two, four. . ."

The countdown for this latest U.S. launching into outer space must start over. After all, the chief engineer has just learned how to count *forward*.

Onlookers are tense although there has never been a misfire yet at the Rollwood kindergarten rocket base in New Jersey. Still this is a dramatic moment. Will the chief engineer get past five? He does and triumphantly shouts out—"Zero!"

In the minds of a score of tiny space-age addicts, their cardboard rocketship blasts off into space—10,000 . . . 20,000 . . . 50,000 miles! Mrs. Mary Worth, the kindergarten teacher who supervises this hour of creative play, stands among her crew as proud as Wernher Von Braun after a good day at Cape Canaveral.

Then a tousled head pops out of the rocketship's porthole. "Teacher," says the space pilot, "Take me to the washroom, please."

Such are the harrowing experiences in an endeavor to key organized play to youth's fascination with space travel. Mrs. Worth knows that the play of today will be reality in the world her children live in as adults. And she's confident they'll fit in perfectly—even the little adventurer who emerged in tears from the class spaceship.

"T-t-teacher," he sobbed uncontrollably. "Those g-g-girls—they're putting curtains on the portholes!"

Photos: Purcell from Pix



Kindergarten version of Mutt-nik is loaded for scientific purposes.



A successful flight! Space pilot is welcomed by dignitaries.