

Big and little kids talk to astronauts

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- U.S. President Barack Obama and some Washington children made a really long-distance call Tuesday and talked with astronauts at the International Space Station.

Surrounded by the children, White House science adviser John Holdren and several members of Congress, Obama's 28-minute call to the Discovery space shuttle crew and the ISS included questions about the astronauts' diet and exercise regimen, whether they found life forms in space and how many stars are in space.

Obama relayed the questions and others from the children, as well interjecting his own queries and comments.

Communications had a 5-second delay between questions and answers so the words could travel between the White House's Roosevelt Room and the space station.

"We've got a crew of wonderful schoolchildren here, who are all interested in space, and we've got some members of Congress, who are like big kids when it comes to talking to astronauts," Obama said at the beginning of the call. "I'm told that you're cruising at 17,500 miles per hour, so we're glad that you're using the hands-free phone."

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