

Gravity

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Gravity is a mystery. We know it exists, we know what it does, but no one knows what gravity is. Introduce your preschoolers to the concept of gravity using this simple song and activity.

Materials:

- Gravity – Sheet Music
- Large yellow ball or yellow felt or paper circle to resemble the sun

Process:

1. Make a copy of the song Gravity.
2. Introduce the song; sing it through several times using motions:
 - **Way up high** (arms up in the air, reaching high) **in the sky,**
 - **Higher than the birds can fly!** (Flap arms like a bird)
 - **Where the planets on their way** (make a circle with your arms and swing back and forth like a planet in orbit)
 - **Travel round the sun each day!** (Continue swinging with your arms in a circle)
 - **Round and round the sun they play**
 - **In their orbits every day** (twirl around in a circle)
 - **Round and round the sun they go!** (Twirl around the other way)
 - **Gravity keeps it so!** (Sit down—gravity pulled you down!)
3. After singing the song, initiate a discussion about what gravity is and what it does.
4. Have the children jump up and down several times. Discuss what happens when a child jumps. Why does the child come back to the ground and not continue going upwards? (Gravity holds everything down on the earth.)
5. Why can't we pick up heavy objects? (Gravity is pulling them down.)
6. What happens when you drop an object? Does it land on the floor or ground and stay there or does it stay suspended in mid-air where you let go of it? (Because of the Earth's gravitational force, the object is pulled downward toward the center of the Earth.)
7. Why do Earth and the other planets orbit around the sun? How do they stay in their orbits? (The gravitational force of the sun and the planets are what causes the planets to stay in their orbits.)

Try this simple way to demonstrate the idea of the sun's gravitational force and its effect on the orbiting planets: Have the children form a circle and hold hands. Place a large yellow ball in the center of the circle to represent the sun. Talk about our huge sun and that its gravitational force is pulling the planets around and around in a huge circle. Name each child for one of the planets and sing the song and orbit round and round the sun.

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