

Experimenting: Gravity

Teacher: A force called gravity keeps everybody on the ground. In space, there's less gravity. Astronauts can float around. This is called being weightless. It happens because of the way the shuttle moves around the Earth.

Teacher: Wow, that's pretty complicated.

Girl: Shuttle. What's a shuttle?

Teacher: A shuttle is a spaceship. It's a different word for a spaceship.

Boy: Is this done? Yes, so this book, because we're on Earth, if I let go, do you think it's going to float or is it going to fall down?

Girl: Float.

Teacher: It might float? What do you think, Gavin?

Girl: I think it's going to fall down.

Teacher: You think it's going to float? Isabelle, do you think this book is going to float when I let go or is it going to fall down?

Isabelle: Fall down.

Teacher: Fall down? Let's see. It fell down, because we have gravity, and gravity makes things stay on the Earth. But if I let go of the book in space, what would happen?

Children: Float.

Teacher: It would just float, because they don't really have gravity.

Isabelle: What if you let go of it and we blowed on it?

Teacher: And you blew on it? That's a good question. You want to try?

Isabelle: How about we all -- how about three of us and you -- how about you hold on to it and we blow on it.

Teacher: Okay, let's try. Ready, set, go.

Children: [Blowing]

Teacher: It still fell down, because we just have so much gravity. Maybe, if we had a really powerful machine to blow the air underneath it, it would be floating.