



*Broward County Public Schools Videoconference*

**Reading Rascals**

**Lesson:** The Force of Gravity  
**Instructor:** Dr. Evelyn Nelson-Weaver  
BECON Distance Learning Teacher

**Grade Level:** First Grade

**Sunshine State Standard:** LA.A.1, LA.A.2 and SC.C.2

**Benchmark:** LA.A.1.1.2, LA.A.2.1.1, and SC.C.2.1.1

**Objective(s):**

1. Students will define vocabulary words through context clues in the reading selection.
2. Students will determine the main idea or essential message from the text.
3. Students will understand that gravity is a force that can be described and demonstrated.
4. Students will be able to demonstrate how a force can change the direction of a moving object.

**SCIENCE SKILL EMPHASIS:** Gather Information.

**LITERATURE CONNECTION:**

**Book Title:** Balloons and Other Fun Things

**Designed and Produced by:** Les Livres du Dragon D'Or

**Publisher:** Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division, New York, NY (1998)

**Story Summary:** This book answers children's questions about gravity, balloons, seeds and how they grow, and safe swimming pool rules.

**ACTIVITIES:**

Force

- A force is a push or pull that makes anything move
  - DEMO: Push truck...pull truck
  - Name the 2 forces I used to move this truck. *Push & Pull*
- You can use forces to change the direction of a moving object
  - DEMO: Tossing balloon up in the air  
The balloon is moving down. What did I do to move it up? *push it*

**Instructor will read Balloons and Other Fun Things**

Gravity

- Name the invisible force that keeps everything from flying away. *Gravity*
- Give me an example that demonstrates the force of gravity: *ex: apple falling to ground*

Hot Air Balloons

- (Show two different balloons) Why does one balloon float and the other doesn't? Because one balloon is filled with helium
- Why does helium make the balloon float? *Because helium is a gas that is lighter than air.*
- Can a helium balloon go up forever? *No, finally the balloon bursts.*

- What happens to a giant flying balloon when the air inside it is heated? *The balloon rises high into the sky.* Why? *Because hot air is lighter than cool air.*
- How can you bring a giant flying balloon back down? *Turn off the burner to cool the air in the balloon.*
- What force keeps our feet on the ground? *Gravity*

**MATERIALS NEEDED:** None

**MEDIA CONNECTION:** Balloon Festival, Albuquerque. United Learning (2004). Retrieved April 9, 2008, from discovery streaming:  
<http://streaming.discoveryeducation.com/>

**MUSIC CORRELATION:** “Gravity,” 101 Science Poems & Songs for Young Learners by Meish Goldish (1996), page 90. New York, NY. Scholastic Inc.

**INTERNET CORRELATION:**

Howstuffworks

How Hot Air Balloons Work <http://travel.howstuffworks.com/hot-air-balloon.htm>