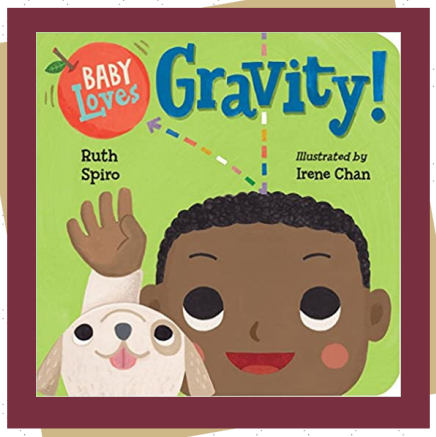


BEYOND THE BOOK GUIDE

Baby Loves Gravity! by Ruth Spiro

Book Summary

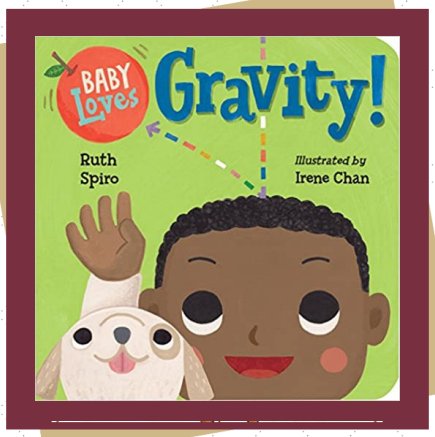
Ruth Spiro has come up with the most delightful way to share science concepts with the youngest learners. Follow along as Baby learns how to test gravity with his food and on the playground.

Before Reading the Story

- Discuss what you see on the cover of the book.
- Make predictions on what the story may be about.
- Have your child repeat the word *gravity*.
- Define the word *gravity* using the child-friendly definition below.

Target Vocabulary

- **gravity**: the forces that causes things to fall towards the earth
- **plop:** the sound made when an object drops to the ground or into a liquid
- **gobble:** to swallow or eat quickly
- **matter:** the thing that forms physical objects and occupies space
- **mass:** the amount of matter in an object
- **Earth:** the planet we live on
- **slurp**: to eat or drink something noisily or with a sucking sound



BEYOND THE BOOK GUIDE

During the Story

- Read the book aloud with the pictures facing your child.
- Make predictions about the story based on the pictures.
- Provide definitions and connections for any of the target vocabulary words that may be unfamiliar.
- Have your child repeat the words that they do not know.
- Relate the details in the story to events and experiences in your everyday life.
- Ask questions throughout the story to help your child understand what's being read.

After Reading the Story

- Have your child retell the story in their own words using the pictures.
- Discuss other things you could do on the playground that involve gravity?
- Gather various sized balls or round objects that can be dropped from a high location, and that won't be damaged. This could be done at the top of the stairs or at the park on top of the playground equipment, for example. Play a game to see which balls hit the ground first, which provides an everyday example of how gravity affects objects of varying size and mass. Ask your child to predict which ball will hit the ground first (i.e., the smallest ball, the biggest ball, the heaviest ball, etc.). Next, try dropping two balls at the same time or from different heights. What did you observe?

Example Questions to Ask

- What sound do you make when you drop something?
- Tell me about a time you dropped something and it made a "plop" sound when it hit the floor?
- What happens when Baby tries to test gravity while sitting in his highchair?
- How do you think the dog feels each time Baby drops something?
- Which has more mass – the sun, Earth, or moon? What makes you think that?
- Can you pretend to make a slurping sound?