Parachute Games are Fun

Why do we love playing parachute games children?

Parachute games encourage cooperative, non-competitive play and reinforce turn-taking and sharing. The games are a lot of fun for both children and adults and allow us to share learning experiences with our youth. They also get youth moving and physically active.

All Change: Instructor calls out birthday months, numbers, colors. Children swap places under the chute before it falls to earth. Make sure that those who remain around the edge allow the canopy to fall rather than pulling it down hard.

Cat and Mouse: Everyone holds the chute stretched out at about waist height. Someone becomes a mouse and goes underneath. Someone else becomes a cat and goes on top. The rest of the group try to hide the mouse by moving the chute up and down.
**Rollerball:** Everyone holds the chute taut. Place a football near the edge. Try to make the ball roll around the edge of the chute. To do this, someone starts the ball rolling. As it comes towards you, you lower the edge you are holding, and as it goes pass you raise your edge. Try changing the direction or speeding up.

**Mushroom** - On the count of three children raise their arms, lifting the chute over their heads, pulling the chute behind them sitting down with their bottoms on the edge of the chute. (See washing Machine below for an activity idea inside the mushroom.)

**Mexican Wave:** One person raises their arms, holding onto the parachute. This action is repeated around the circle to create a wave.

**Washing Machine** - On the count of three children raise their arms, lifting the chute over their heads, pulling the chute behind them sitting down with their bottoms on the edge of the chute. The children should now be inside the chute. Start rocking from left - forward - right.

**Merry go Round:** Turn the body so that the chute is held with only one hand, walk, hop, jump, skip around holding the chute. It looks like a merry-go-round.
**Popcorn:** Place a number of beanbags on the chute. Children shake the chute to make them rise like popcorn.

**Snakes:** Place four to six skipping ropes on the chute. By shaking the chute, the children try to shake them off.

**Sharks:** Everyone sits on the ground with their legs stretched out under the chute and the chute held at chest height. One or two children crawl around under the chute and are 'sharks'. They quietly grab the legs of anyone around the perimeter (with many blood-curdling screams) pull them under the canopy. The shark now swaps places. *Only use this game with a group of children that know each other.*