

# Watermelon Activities

Here are some activities you can implement in your classrooms that connect to the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS).

<u>Harvest for Healthy Kids</u> has an entire activity kit available for *free* download. This kit includes activity plans for melons, picture cards, Teacher Bites Newsletter, Family Newsletter, and Recipes.

# **Watermelon Sculptures**

PDM2.4a Helps prepare nutritious snacks and meals.

Set up 2 trays. The first tray will have thinly sliced watermelon. Have the children use cookie cutters to create fun shapes. The second tray will contain skewers. Please supervise children closely when using the skewers. Each child will create a fun snack with a few watermelon pieces.

#### Watermelon Role

**PDM2.4b** Sorts foods into food groups and communicates the benefits of healthy foods.

Have the children work in groups of two to move a watermelon across an area during outdoor time using only one hand. Wash the watermelon, cut open, and have some as a snack when done. Plant a watermelon seed to see if it will grow.

# Watermelon Sensory Squish Bag

PDM4.1a Engages in some sensory experiences.

Hands-on sensory play is an excellent way to introduce new topics. They are a great way to spark conversations and build vocabulary while little hands squish their creations. 1) Place 8-10 ounces of clear hair gel to a baggie and add a few drops of red food coloring. 2) Next add some watermelon seeds. This is a good way to ask each child to count out a certain number of seeds and place in the bags. 3) Seal the bag and allow the children to spread the hair gel to thoroughly mix the color. 4) As an added precaution, you may add clear packing tape around the edges of the bag.

# Watermelon Play Dough

**PDM4.2a** Participates in a variety of sensory experiences and differentiates between senses.

You will need 1 cup flour, ½ cup salt, 1 envelope of Watermelon Kool-Aid, 2 teaspoons cream of tartar, 1 cup water, 1 tablespoon oil. Boil water. Mix dry ingredients together. Measure out the boiling water and then add the oil into the measuring cup. Pour the water-oil mixture into the dry ingredients and stir carefully. Once the play dough is completely mixed and starts to form a ball, fold out the mixture onto a floured surface and knead for at least 1 minute. Add dried black beans for the seeds.

# Torn Paper Watermelon Craft

CD-CR2.3a Uses a variety of tools and art media to express individual creativity.

You will need red and green construction paper, white card stock, washable black paint, and glue. You can sketch out an outline of a watermelon slice on the white paper as a guide. As the art activity is introduced, discuss the parts of the watermelon. Start by tearing small pieces of the construction paper. Start with the rind first by gluing the green paper then the red. Next talk about watermelon seeds. Dip the index finger into black paint and dab to make the seeds.