

# Watermelon Sippers

## Primary Objectives

9a. Uses an expanding expressive vocabulary

## Why It's Important

Children are continually observing and imitating adult behaviors as they attempt to make sense of the world around them. Cooking experiences give your child the opportunity to try out these behaviors and to learn new and more complex vocabulary.

## Materials

Plastic zipper sandwich bags; watermelon; dull or plastic knives; drinking straws

## What You Do

1. Have the materials ready before beginning the activity. Explain to your child that you would like his help preparing a snack. Wash hands with your child before beginning.
2. Explain each step of the recipe as you work with your child. Encourage him to perform as many of the actions as possible.
3. Have your child cut a slice of watermelon into small chunks. Help him remove the seeds.
4. Next, have your child place the watermelon pieces in the zippered bag and seal it. Invite him to squeeze the bag and squish the watermelon pieces inside.
5. When finished, open a small corner of the bag and insert a straw. Invite your child to drink the juice.
6. As he enjoys his snack, prompt your child to talk about the experience by asking open-ended questions. *How do the seeds feel? What does the melon smell like?*
7. Focus on your child's responses, allowing him time to think about his answers. Repeat his responses back to him and extend his language. For example, if he says, *The seeds are wet*, you can reply with, *You think the seeds feel wet when you touch them.*
8. Look for other opportunities throughout the day to ask your child open-ended questions that develop his thinking and language skills.