



★ SENSORY EXPLORATION

Investigating Seeds

OBJECTIVES:

1. Children explore seeds for different kinds of squash and learn that seeds come in different shapes and sizes.
2. Children describe the feel, smell, taste, color of winter squash and squash seeds.
3. Children use scientific inquiry skills to predict, observe, describe and compare.

WHAT YOU MIGHT NEED:

3-4 kinds of winter squash (acorn, butternut, delicata, hubbard, kabocha, spaghetti, etc.), spoons, bowls for seeds, colander

WHAT YOU MIGHT DO:

- Gather the children in circle time. Tell the children: today we will be exploring winter squash!
- Take out the 3-4 kinds of winter squash and name them for the children.
- Have the children describe the squash and guess the color of the seeds inside. Have children guess which squash will have the most seeds.
- Wash winter squash and cut in half (children can help wash squash; teachers cut squash in half, being careful to stabilize the squash so it doesn't roll. Placing it on a damp towel on top of a cutting board works nicely.)
- Show the children the inside of each squash. Ask children to note the color of the seeds.
- Give the children a piece of the squash and let them scoop out seeds.
- Ask children to describe the color, texture, and smell of the squash and seeds.
- Rinse the seeds in a colander and return to table.
- Have children make piles of the seeds from each squash. Which squash has the biggest pile of seeds?
- Use other questions to direct children's explorations, like:
 - What colors are the squashes?
 - Which squash is the biggest? The smallest? Which is the fattest? Which is the longest?
 - How does the squash feel? (Smooth, bumpy, hard...)
 - What does the squash look like inside? What color are the seeds? Which squash has the most seeds? Which seeds are the biggest?
 - How are the squash seeds the same or different?



CLAP IT OUT

Clap out the syllables of each winter squash you explore.

BUT-TER-NUT

DE-LI-CA-TA

SPA-GHE-TTI

