

# Wild About Watermelons!

Now that it's summer, you'll need juicy, mouthwatering, fresh-picked ideas to keep the learning growing. We think these ideas will be just "ripe"!

## Learning Your Way Around A Watermelon

It turns out that there's a lot of learning to be done with a watermelon. Watermelons aren't just for eating anymore—they're for learning about opposites, too. Take your children outside on a sunny day. Put a watermelon on newspaper on the ground. Begin your discussion about opposites by describing the *outside* of the watermelon. Ask volunteers what the *inside* will look like. Invite each child to thump the outside and try to pick up the watermelon. Next cut each child a slice. Compare the *soft* flesh of the inside to the *hard* rind of the outside. Discuss that while the whole watermelon is *heavy*, each slice is *light*. Best of all, eat your juicy slices. (Save those seeds and rinds! You'll need them for activities in this unit.) Mmmm, delicious and messy! Isn't *wet* better than *dry*?

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Pam Crane

## Can A Watermelon Grow In My Tummy?

What's that? Someone swallowed a seed? Have no fear! The following song reminds little ones that a watermelon can't grow in there! Invite the children to echo you as you shout, "Oh, no!", then sing each verse.

### Watermelon Echo Song

(sung to the tune of "Frère Jacques")

Oh, no! (Oh, no!)  
I just swallowed (I just swallowed)  
A watermelon seed. (A watermelon seed.)  
Will I grow a watermelon (Will I grow a watermelon)  
Deep in me? (Deep in me?)

Shout phrase, hands on face in alarm.  
Begin singing slowly as with fear.

Oh, no! (Oh, no!)  
That seed won't grow (That seed won't grow)  
In my tummy. (In my tummy.)  
There's no rain or sunshine (There's no rain or sunshine)  
Deep in me! (Deep in me!)

Shout phrase.  
Sing faster with joy.

LeeAnn Collins