What better way to celebrate the start of summer than with watermelon-themed activities! There are countless creative ways to make use of a watermelon for educational purposes. Explore them for attributes (Vocabulary & Concept Development)). Weigh and measure them (Measurement). Compare them for size, color, weight and taste. Use the seeds as math manipulatives (Number Concepts). Plant watermelon seeds and observe the life cycle of a watermelon (Life Science). Visit a local farm to explore an established watermelon patch (Community Experience). Read watermelon-themed books (Reading and Literature). Add watermelon-related words to your monthly vocabulary list (e.g., plant, seed, sprout, seedling, vine, blossom, pollinate). Create watermelon stories (Composition). See if watermelons float (Predictions). Use the inside for cooking activities (following directions). Use
watermelons for games and relay races (social skills). Use the rinds to make block prints (hand skills)...
a few drops of liquid detergent to remove remaining sugar. Rinse well. Drain in a colander and let dry on newspapers.

Use seeds from watermelons to grow your own watermelon plants. Fill an egg carton with potting soil. Plant one or two watermelon seeds in each section. Water daily and wait for them to sprout. After they sprout, find a sunny spot to put them in a garden, or transplant to a big planting pot (the National Watermelon Promotion Board says it's actually OK to plant watermelons in a pot!). You can also plant the seeds directly into the soil, about one inch down. Water immediately after planting and several times a week after that. You should see plants emerge in about ten days. Watch as the seed grows into a tiny plant, vines grow, blossoms form, bees pollinate the blossoms and the watermelons start to appear. Keep weekly logs to sequence the life cycle.

Supplement your watermelon-theme with some fun cooking activities:

Watermelon Cookies (from www.watermelon.org)

You will need:
- Seedless watermelon, cut into 1/2-inch thick rounds
- Cookie cutters
- Yogurt
- Granola
Cut interesting shapes out of the watermelon rounds with cookie cutters *(push down/pull up)*. Use them to design simple shape puzzles (e.g., cat, house, truck), or create watermelon sculptures by stacking them. This is a fun way to work on *spatial concepts* (on top of, next to, under) and *shape recognition*. Frost the watermelon cookies with yogurt, sprinkle with Granola, or decorate with raisins (optional).

**Watermelon Pops (from Family Fun Magazine)**

You will need:
- Several seedless watermelons, sliced into 1/2 inch thick rounds (at least one round for each student)
- Cookie cutters (deep enough to cut through half-inch of watermelon)
- Plastic wrap or foil
- Popsicle sticks
- Cookie sheets
- Access to a freezer

Use the cookie cutters to cut out various shapes. Insert popsicle sticks carefully into the edge of each shape. Line a cookie sheet with foil or plastic.
wrap. Place watermelon shapes on cookie sheet and cover with a sheet of foil or plastic wrap. Freeze for one hour or until frozen.

Have fun!