

# Coconut

## COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT -

spatial relations, predicting, measuring and calculating.

## EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT -

tactile responses and sensory pleasure.

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT -

social interaction and developing choices.

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT -

fine and gross motor skills.

## LITERACY AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT -

verbalising with friends, developing imagination and new vocabulary.



## To Encourage Interaction and Play

Using two desks facing each other encourages interaction and social play. Placing shared items together encourages children to practice their social skills by asking for, and sharing items with each other.



Have tubs 1/3 full of coconut. Start with the natural colour then colour the coconut. Combine two colours together for variety, then mix all the colours together to make rainbow rice. At the beginning, to learn and reinforce colour recognition, add blue items in the blue rice, yellow items in the yellow rice etc. The coconut has a wonderful smell. Explain not to taste the coconut.

## Preparation

- Plastic tubs or containers 6cm or so deep.
- Purchase 6kg of dried coconut from the supermarket.
- Ensure the tubs are in an area where it is easy to sweep as it tends to be messy regardless of how careful everyone is.
- Colour coconut (see Recipe section) to enhance the visual experience.

## Independent Experiences

- Free play using hands and spoons.
- Provide mini shovels, scoops and small containers for tipping and pouring.
- Add cardboard tubes (from kitchen rolls or similar) for tipping and pouring.
- Add measuring cups and spoons.

## Adult

- Watch and listen to the natural chatter of the children.
- Encourage language - the texture, the colour and smell. When tipping and pouring the coconut, emphasise the sense of touch and the smell.
- Encourage natural language about where coconuts come from. Show the children a coconut. What does the outside feel like? How do we get the coconut open? Taste the milk. What do we use coconut for? How do they dry the coconut flesh?



## Extension

- Use coconut for measuring and weighing.
- Make a Basic Plain Biscuit mix (see Recipe section) and cut with cookie cutters. Cook and decorate with coconut. Sheep biscuits are perfect covered in coconut.
- Look at the different types of dried coconut available.
- When finished use the dried coconut for the collage table. Plain green coconut makes a wonderful, textured looking grass. Rainbow coconut can be used for anything, including colourful birds and flowers. Encourage sprinkling the coconut between the fingers. This activity helps to reinforce maths concepts such as covering the "area" with glue.