ENCOURAGING INDENTITY & INDEPENDENCE - ACTIVITY GUIDE 184



Materials you need:

• 2 packets of jelly crystals (or you could just use gelatine powder and juice to make your own jelly) Trays or a table.

Setup for play:

- Make up the jelly with a ¼ cup less water than the directions tell you to. This ensures a firmer jelly. Refrigerate overnight.
- When set cut into chunks or cubes.
- Add a few cubes to highchair trays or trays down on a table. Encourage baby to touch and investigate as the jelly wobbles and changes shape.
- Add a few smaller cubes and see if the children can pick the slippery pieces up off the tray with their fingers and put into a bowl. What happens if we squish the jelly in our hands?
- Let the children taste the jelly and talk about textures. Ensure you have checked for allergies and with parents before you do this activity.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children interact with the jelly they are learning to:

- Use hand/eye coordination skills
- Develop new vocabulary and language skills
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Manipulate equipment and real-life tools with increasing competence
- Explore, infer, predict and problem solve

Extending the play:

• Use half the water when making the jelly then slice into bigger cubes to use as stacking blocks!