OCEAN SLIPPERY SEEDS

Materials you need:

- 1/2 Cup Basil or Chia seeds (or sago will work too but won't be slimy)
- 3 Cups warm water
- 1/2 teaspoon blue or green edicol dye or food colouring
- Large bowl, tub or tray (the shallow underbed tubs on wheels work well)
- Shells, pebbles, scoops, spoons, small cups – whatever props you have to add to the slippery seeds sensory tub. It doesn't need to be a sea theme.

Setup for play:

- Add the chia or basil seeds to the warm water, sprinkle the edicol dye or food colouring over the seeds and mix through in a large bowl. Refrigerate for 12-24 hours before you want to setup this activity.
- Pour the blue seed slime into a tray and set up a sensory ocean small world with your shells, pebbles and anything else you want to use. Make sure to provide some tools with handles (like spoons) for the children who are uncomfortable with slimy textures.
- Allow the children to investigate in their own way, set up their own small world and bring in other items to the sensory tub.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children set up their small world and play with the slippery seed slime they are learning to:

- Use their sense of touch, sight and smell to make choices and create
- Use descriptive language and become independent communicators
- Work together in a group with others
- Use hand/eye coordination skills
- Manipulate equipment and tools with increasing competence
- Strengthen fine motor muscles and control
- Use their senses to explore natural materials
- Use their play to imagine and explore ideas
- Create with different mediums and textures
- Problem solve and make decisions
- Use their imagination to explore real life events and places

Extending the play:

- Scoop some of the seed slime onto a plate or board and let children investigate with magnifying glasses.
- Ask if they can pick up just one seed out of the slime. A challenge for the pincer grip!