

# The Magic Of Manipulatives

## Seashells

Shell out the fun and learning opportunities with these hands-on activities using—what else? Seashells! Gather a collection of different colors, shapes, and sizes of seashells (available at most school and craft supply stores). Then hang on tight for the wave of enthusiasm to hit your class. Even your shyest students will come out of their shells to join in the fun!

by Mackie Rhodes

- Hide a small object under one in a set of three large shells. Challenge a child to guess under which shell the item is hidden.



- Using a variety of shells, challenge students to place them end-to-end to make shapes, designs, and letters on the table or floor.



- Place an assortment of shells in a center. Have youngsters sort the shells by type, color, shape, and size.

- Play a shell seriation game. Have your little ones sequence a collection of shells from smallest to largest.

- Provide clamshells, solid-colored paper towels, paintbrushes, and a tray of paint. Have a child paint the top of a shell. Then have her place the towel over the shell and gently press. When the towel is removed, it will have an interesting print created by the shell.

- Have children estimate how many small shells will fit in a large clamshell. Fill the clamshell; then count to see how many fit.

- Using seashells with holes formed or drilled in them, encourage youngsters to lace them together for use as necklaces, wind chimes, or room decorations.