

## **Activity Guide**

The development of visual motor skills is vital to success in many curricular areas. Beads provide practice in: pre-reading skills, color and shape identification, patterning, and eye-hand coordination. Encourage children to work from left to right to strengthen their orientation for reading.

### **Patterns & Puzzles**

Create a pattern and challenge children to copy it. Make sure that your patterns meet their skill levels. Ask children to verbalize a description of the pattern and then to try and re-create the pattern in a drawing. You are reinforcing patterning concepts through three mediums: sight, sound, and touch.

Challenge children to create patterns from verbal instructions. Then, string beads to show the correct arrangement. Verify your children's skills by asking them to display their strings of beads.

### **Sorting**

Use the color beads to reinforce sorting skills. Ask children to sort the beads by shape or color, then to string them. Instruct them to place two blue spheres on a string. You've asked them to sort by quantity, color, and shape!

### **Counting Up**

Sort and count the beads to develop addition and subtraction skills. Use the beads as counters to describe real-life story problems. Children can string and display their answers.

### **Get Creative**

Ask the children to make up patterns of their own using specific colors. They can then challenge their peers to re-create the patterns. Children will love to try and trick their friends with difficult patterns and arrangements.