

## Shell Counting Activities

### You will need:

A large container filled with sand, a bucket and spade, shell pattern card downloaded from the website.

**Talk to the children about the different patterns and designs of shells as they play. Discuss, shapes, lines, patterns and colours with good adjectives to describe the shells such as fat, white, thin, sleek, rounded, rough, smooth, inside, outside.**

Each child digs out a shell.

How many shells have I 'dug up'? Place each shell on the shell pattern card following the count sequence. The final number reached indicates how many shells 'found'.

Find the Numicon shape that matches the number of shells found. Can you find the shape on the number line?

You might want to record on a sheet how many shells are found.

Who has the most shells? How many more? How many less?

How about digging for the Numicon shapes? Pegs?- then put them into the Numicon pattern to find out 'how many?'

Enjoy songs, poems and stories with shells. This one was a favourite years ago sung by Elvis Presley:

*Pearly Shells, from the ocean  
Shining in the sand  
Covering the shore  
When I see them  
My heart tells me that I love you  
More than all those little pearly shells!*



### Other activities with shells:

Make necklaces together!

Visit the museum to see their shell collections or suggest to families for a weekend activity.



### [1st Steps with Numicon in the Nursery](#)

#### Section 2: Mathematics in Water Play

- Counting and patterns, Matching
- Activity 2

### [Firm Foundation Kit](#)

Card 1b: Activity 2 Count and check

Card 2a: Getting to know the Numicon shapes

Card 3b: Getting to know the Numicon shapes

Activity 1: Bigger or smaller

Activity 2: Biggest or smallest

Extension: Fishing Game

Card 4a: Getting to know the Numicon shapes

Activity: Putting the fish in order of size

Card 5b: Getting to know the Numicon shapes and patterns

Activity 1: Copying Numicon patterns

Card 6a: Getting to know the Numicon shapes and patterns

Activity: Challenge

Card 6b: Giving the shapes their number names

Activity 1 and 2 Connecting shapes, patterns and names

Card 8a: Knowing the Shapes and Numerals

Challenge: Identifying the shapes, pattern and matching numerals

Card 8b: Knowing the shapes and numerals

Activity 3: Picture the pattern and Using Numicon

Card 10b: Addition

Using Numicon