Ask the children to make up patterns of their own using specific colors. They can then challenge their peers to recreate the patterns. Children will love to try and trick their friends with difficult patterns and arrangements.
Activity Guide
The development of visual motor skills is vital to success in many curriculum areas. Beads provide practice in: pre-reading skills, color and shape identification, patterning, and hand-eye coordination. Encourage students to work from left to right to strengthen their orientation for reading.

Patterns & Puzzles
Create a pattern and challenge the children to copy it. Make sure that your patterns meet the skill levels of your children. Ask the children to verbalize a description of the pattern and then to try and recreate the pattern in a drawing. You are reinforcing patterning concepts through three mediums; sight, sound, and touch.

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

Sorting
Use the color beads to reinforce sorting skills. Ask the children to sort the beads by shape or color, then to string them. Instruct the children to place four blue squares 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.