

Computers & Kids

NEWS

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Children's Collections

Often More Than Meets the Eye!

Sandy sea shells gathered at the bottom of dirty beach bags, pockets full of acorns in the fall, buckets of pinecones in winter, and rocks of all shapes and sizes heard banging around in the washing machine... if any of these scenarios sound familiar, you are probably the parent of a collector! Congratulations! Did you know that children who collect take notice of the smallest differences in their collected items? Have you spotted your child counting the items in his /her collection? Maybe your child is even beginning to organize, categorize, and display the collection. Collecting is a fun activity that begins with preschoolers and lasts a lifetime. Best of all, collecting does not have to be expensive!

After you clean out the bags and pockets of treasures, show an interest in you child's collection by helping to take the collection to the next level.

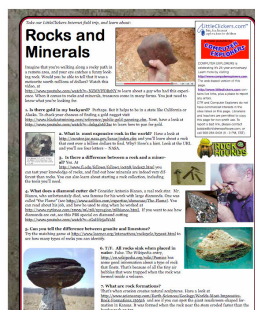
Displaying (and Learning from) a Rock Collection: After washing and drying rocks, have your child sort them by size, color, shape, or texture. Use an empty egg carton to help your child to display the collection according to categories that interest him. If children want another challenge, turn their rock collections into the ancient game – Mancala – and help them learn another set of great skills. Find out more about Mancala and creating a homemade edition at PBS Kids

<http://pbskids.org/mayaandmiguel/english/print/mancala.html>.

Making a Sea Shell Collection Sing: Turn your child's summer shell collection into a fall craft by making a seashell wind chime together. Crafts specifically designed for preschoolers can be found at Associated Content. Just search for "sea shell wind chime" at www.associatedcontent.com.

Preserving Pine Cones for Years to Come:

Commemorate your child's early love for collecting by preserving a collection such as pine cones for years to come. Rather than look at them all year, just pull them out during the holidays and remember how your child stuffed her little pockets full each fall. For tips on preserving pine cones see a fun website called Tipnut at <http://tipnut.com/how-to-prepare-preserve-pinecones/>.



Locate and print the above Buckleitner Internet activities at www.computerexplorers.com

In elementary school, children's minds become more flexible and more complex at the same time. This new stage allows children to take collecting to the next level with a simple interest in categorizing and classifying. For example, children may suddenly sort their baseball cards by league, team membership, or batting average.

Coin collecting is a great step up from rock and shell collecting. See what the EduBook has to say about coin collecting and how it reinforces lessons in geography, history, and money management! Visit <http://www.edubook.com/coin-collecting-for-children/6029/>.

Buckleitner Box

Dear Parents,

Further Signs Your Mouse is Doomed... Is your favorite mouse on its way to becoming a collector's item?

At this year's NECC in Washington, DC, there was an all-out war going on between various types of interactive white boards. They were everywhere from 3M, Smart, Prometheus, Hitachi and others — and while the technology behind each varied slightly, they all used a touch screen instead of the traditional mouse and keyboard. Microsoft's Surface, the innovative multi-touch tabletop costing thousands of dollars, was spotted not once, but twice on this year's NECC floor. Each was attracting a crowd of curious educators, eager to touch the future of computing — a future that is less likely to need your mouse and keyboard.

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