

## Strategy: Manipulatives

### Differentiating by: Readiness/Learning Profile

**Overview:** Teachers can differentiate instruction by providing manipulatives for those students who are having difficulty understanding a concept. Manipulatives are concrete objects that students can use to develop a conceptual understanding of a topic or skill. These objects help students represent the idea they are trying to learn or the problem they are trying to solve. For example, the teacher might demonstrate the idea of fractions by slicing a pie into pieces. It is important that the teacher make explicit the connection between the concrete object and the abstract concept being taught.

#### Example:

A student uses a number line (i.e., a visual representation) to add two single-digit numbers.



Two students use an abacus to practice counting by fives.



A student uses colored cubes to work on pattern recognition.