This year your child is using *Houghton Mifflin Spelling and Vocabulary*. Units 1 through 3, the Back to School units, introduce children to the letters of the alphabet and their corresponding consonant and vowel sounds. In Unit 1 your child will learn the consonants *b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, y,* and *z* and the letter sounds associated with these consonants. In Unit 2, your child will learn the short vowels *a, e, i, o,* and *u* and their sounds. In both Units 2 and 3, your child will practice identifying the letters that spell beginning, middle, and ending sounds in words such as *mop* and *can*.

**Family Activity**

Cut out the short-vowel letter cards below with your child. Place the cards face-up on a flat surface. Choose a word from the box to the right and say, “What letter spells the sound you hear in the middle of this word: (Say a word.)?” Have your child identify and name the vowel. Then have him or her spell the word you read aloud.