How to make: Title the bulletin board “Sounds and Letters Circus.” Make a colorful tent and ringmaster from construction paper and decorate a shoebox with bars and wheels to resemble a cage. Attach them to the board. Next, attach 25 paper cups upside down to the board and decorate them to look like circus pedestals. Write the upper- and lowercase forms of each letter of the alphabet except for x on blank cards. Attach the cards above the cups. Then collect small items or pictures of items whose names begin with the consonant or short vowel sound children are learning. Attach a folded self-stick note to the back of any pictures to help them stand up. Place the items and pictures in the “cage” at the bottom of the bulletin board.

How to use: As you work through the Back-to-School lessons, have children take items or pictures from the “cage.” Tell them to name the item or picture they chose. Then have them place the item or picture on the pedestal whose letter spells the sound they hear at the beginning of the word.