Beginning and End

Players: Two teams of two to three children

You need: Sound/Spelling Cards (or teacher-made cards) for consonants and vowels

How to play: Have teams sit together, facing the board. Give each team half of the consonant cards. Write the heads Team 1 and Team 2 on the board.

1. Place a vowel card on the chalk tray. Give Team 1 a chance to build a word by adding any of their consonant cards before and/or after the vowel. Write their word under Team 1. Then give Team 2 a chance to try.

2. Teams take turns adding consonant cards to the same vowel card until one team can no longer build a word. When this happens, the other team may continue building as many words as they can. Then the vowel card is replaced.

3. Teams earn 1 point for each word. The team with the most points wins.

Other ways to play this game: Have children work with a partner. Give partners all of the consonant and vowel cards. Set a timer, and challenge children to build as many words as they can in three minutes.