How to make: Staple a box to the top of the bulletin board. Cover it with construction paper so that it resembles a pot of boiling pasta. Cut 30 squiggly “pasta” shapes from yellow construction paper and write a Unit 36 Basic Word on each. Drop the “pasta” into the pot. Then, tie a string to a pair of real kitchen tongs, and attach them to the board with a tack. Last, staple three rows of paper or plastic bowls to the board, five bowls in each row. Add “holes” (dots written on the bowls) and handles to the first row of bowls to make them look like colanders. Label the colanders and the bowls as shown.

How to use: In pairs or small groups, children can take turns using the tongs to pluck pieces of pasta from the pot. Tell them to sort the “pasta words” they pluck into the appropriate colanders in Row 1. For some children, the activity will stop here. For others who need more of a challenge, the words can be sorted further, vertically, into the bowls in Rows 2 and 3.