Searching for Sounds!

In each of Moncure's Sound Box books, her "Little" characters embark on adventures to find items that begin with a particular sound. Each book targets a letter of the alphabet and the "Little" character in that book hunts for items that begin with that letter sound. For example, in My "b" Sound Box, “Little b” finds a bird, a bunny, and several other items that begin with the /b/ sound to put in her box. She collects so many items she has to put them in a bicycle basket, and finally on a boat. Each story in the series follows the adventures of a “Little” character as they search for various items to put in the sound box!

After reading a book from the Sound Box series, engage your child in their very own sound hunt, focusing on one letter sound at a time. Learning to identify the beginning sounds in words is a fundamental component of early literacy. To help your child become aware of the beginning sounds in words, talk about specific words and the sounds with which they begin. For example, the word pig begins with the sound /p/. The letter “p” makes the /p/ sound. Going on a hunt for items that begin with a particular letter sound is an exciting and motivating way for children to practice identifying the beginning sounds in words. Help your child create a sound box, then choose a letter and hunt for household items that begin with that letter sound. Look in drawers, on walls, under beds, even in the refrigerator. Have fun and let the learning begin!
Monthly Parent Activity
May/June 2010
http://pals.virginia.edu

To start you will need:
1. Empty cardboard box
2. Construction paper, or wrapping paper
3. Scissors, tape, markers
4. Alphabet cards

Procedure:
1. To make a sound box, choose an empty cardboard box that is big enough to hold various items and small enough to be carried.
2. Decorate the sound box with construction paper, wrapping paper, markers, etc.
3. Choose a letter and tape it to the front of the box.
4. Begin the sound search! Invite your child to look around the house for everyday items that begin with the chosen letter sound (i.e., telephone, tape, and teaspoon for the letter “t”).
5. When your child finds an item for the sound box, ask “What is the name of this item?”
   What sound do you hear at the beginning of _____? That’s right! What letter makes the ____ sound?”
   For example, if your child picks up a telephone to put in your /t/ sound box, ask “What is the name of that item? That’s right! That is a telephone. What sound do you hear at the beginning of telephone? You are correct! I hear a /t/ sound at the beginning of telephone. What letter makes the /t/ sound? You are right! The letter “t” makes the /t/ sound. Can the telephone go in our sound box? Yes it can! Telephone begins with the /t/ sound, it begins with the letter “t,” so it can go in our /t/ sound box!”
6. If an item begins with the chosen letter sound, place it in the sound box and continue on the sound hunt!

Extensions:
1. Make up a story together using all of the items in the sound box.
2. Have your child draw the items found, then label them, writing as many sounds as s/he hears.
3. Compare and contrast the items in the box to see what other similarities and differences they have.