Consonant Blend Scavenger Hunt

Kids love scavenger hunts. Whether they’re chasing down a paper clip or a scarf, the thrill of the game keeps kids excited and engaged. This activity combines the excitement of a scavenger hunt with back-to-basics reading practice: working with consonant blend sounds. No doubt your first grader has already worked with consonant blends in school, and this activity will help reinforce what she’s learned.

What You Need:

- Index cards
- Pen
- Basket or bag
- Timer

What You Do:

1. Write the following blends on separate index cards: bl, br, cl, cr, dr, fl, gr, pl, sc, sl, sm, sn, sp, st, sw, and tr. Make sure each consonant blend is written on its own card.
2. Hand a card to your child and ask her what sound the blend makes. Remind her that blends are letters that work together to make one sound. For instance, the “tr” blend makes the initial sound you hear in the word tree. Practice the sound of the blend with your child.
3. Start hunting! Give your child a basket and tell her that she has five minutes to find as many items in the house that start with the sound on the card. If your child is just learning the sounds, you many want to brainstorm about some ideas of objects that she can find. Here are a few example ideas:
   - bl - blue, black, blender, blazer
   - br - brown, brick, bright, bread
   - cl - clothes, cloth, clip, cleaner
   - dr - drawer, drink, drop, drain
   - fl - floor, flat, flip, flake
   - gr - green, grass, grade, gross
   - pl - plastic, play, plush, pluto
   - sc - scream, scrape, scar, scratch
   - sl - sled, slide, slipper, slim
   - sm – small, smear, smooth, smart
   - sn - snake, snack, snap
   - sp – spot, sport, splatter, spatula
   - St - star, stump, stick, sting, stamp, stone
   - sw - sweater, sweet, swing, sweet
   - tr - tree, tray, truck, trunk, treat
4. Set the timer and start the hunt. When the time expires, go over the items with your child. If your child had trouble finding items, go through the house and help her find what she missed. Ask her if she saw any items that were too large to put in her basket, and reward her with a point for each item she names.
5. Give your child another card and have her find items that start with the blend on the card. Continue playing until you have used all of the cards. If your child is just learning blends, you may only want to play with a couple cards the first few times that you play the game. If you child is
advanced, you might consider having her compete with an older sibling or friend who’s at her level.