

BOARD GAME: IT'S AS EASY AS ABC

City dad spells out hopes for success

MOVE over Monopoly, and cast off Cluedo!

A new board game is about to hit the shelves which will hopefully spell success for a city inventor.

Father-of-five Rasib Khan, aged 47, has spent the last year working on his new game, *Alphabet Runner*.

The former police engineer, who retired from the West Midlands force on medical grounds in 1991, said it was intended both as an educational tool for schools and as a fun game.

Rasib, who lives in Walsall Road, Perry Barr, said he had managed to combine the skill of playing cards and the luck of board games with the ability to help youngsters improve their word power.

He said he came up with a way for children to learn about spelling and numbers, but without the association to gambling, after watching them using traditional

BY TONY COLLINS

playing cards. The result is a game that can be played by two to four people from primary school age, right up to their teens.

Rasib is receiving assistance for his game from Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, Business Link, and business website Mustard.uk.com to generate interest.

Rasib said: "I wanted to move children away from just playing cards that are associated with gambling and encourage them to make words instead."

"At the very basic level they can use the cards, which have groups of letters printed on them, to play Snap."

"But coupled with the board there are a number of games that can be played that will test their spelling ability, reasoning and ability to create words."



■ **INVENTOR:** Rasib Khan at home in Perry Barr with his new *Alphabet Game*

He added: "I've tested the game on children and it's amazing how quickly they pick it up."

"The game is designed so that parents and children can play together. As they get older, there is a skill and tactics aspect that borrows some of the elements of other card games but still remains educational."

Richard Stannard, of Business Link, said: "There is a big market for educational board games, although they are often overshadowed by the more glamorous games from big manufacturers."

"Rasib is targeting independent toy shops that find it difficult to compete with the low prices larger stores can charge for Monopoly or Cluedo but are still looking for innovative and popular products to sell."

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