

Dear Family:

Foundations® Unit 3 will take approximately one week to reach mastery. This Unit works on **closed syllable exceptions**. The vowel in a closed syllable usually has a short vowel sound like **ŭ** in the word **up**. However, there are five exceptions to this rule. It is helpful to stress the meaning of the word **exception** to your child (something that does not follow the rule). It is important for your child to be able to quickly identify these exceptions:

/īd/ as in **child**

/īnd/ as in **kind**

/ōld/ as in **cold**

/ōlt/ as in **colt**

/ōst/ as in **post**

They are exceptions because the vowel has a **long** sound (it says its name) rather than a short vowel sound. We mark them like this:

c ō l d



Also in this Unit, I will teach some important words that students should memorize. We call these **Trick Words** because most of them cannot be sounded out.

I will introduce five new sounds. Your child will learn the keywords for these now, but we will still study them for reading and spelling in more detail later in the year. Whenever you see //, the sound of the letters appears within the bars:

ay says /ā/ as in **play**

ai says /ā/ as in **bait**

ee says /ē/ as in **jeep**

ea says /ē/ as in **eat**

ey says /ē/ as in **key**

There are activities to help reinforce these concepts. Thank you for your help and be sure to have fun! Please write down any questions you might have for me and I shall get back to you.

Sincerely,

