

Dear Family:

The first several units in Foundations® Level 3 will review concepts previously taught while adding new information. This is a key component of the program. We will build on the skills already in place so that we can progress further into the study of word structure by focusing on advanced spelling rules and morphology (patterns of word formation).

In Unit 1, we will review **closed syllables**. A **closed syllable** is a word or part of a word that has one vowel “closed in” or followed by one or more consonants. The vowel does not need to have a consonant before it, but it must have at least one consonant after it. Examples include **cup**, **whip**, **last** and **at**. A **closed syllable** makes the vowel short (as in *ă* in apple, *ĕ* in Ed, *ĭ* in itch, *ŏ* in octopus and *ŭ* in up). The vowel is marked by the breve sign (˘). **Closed syllable** words are marked this way:

w h i p
c

The five **closed syllable exceptions** will also be revisited. **Closed syllable exceptions** have a similar pattern to closed syllables, but they have a long vowel sound instead of the expected short vowel sound. It is helpful to stress the meaning of the word *exception* to your child (something that does not follow the rules). The **closed syllable exceptions** are:

/īd/ as in **child** /īnd/ as in **kind** /ōst/ as in **post**
/ōld/ as in **cold** /ōlt/ as in **colt**

Closed syllable exception words are marked this way: m ō s t

In addition, to review, students will learn some new sounds. They will learn **tch** - **catch** - /ch/ and to choose **tch** rather than **ch** after a short vowel, and will mark the new sound by underlining it (**catch**). And last but not least, I will teach students that **w** and **qu** change the sound of the letter **a** (as in **wash**, **squash**).

Throughout Level 3, your child will study **homophones**, or words that sound alike but are not spelled the same and have different meanings. For example: **no/know** and **write/right**. You will see that several activities will provide practice with the meaning and spelling of these words.

Please work with your child to reinforce the above concepts by using the enclosed activity suggestions. If you have any questions, please write them down and I will get back to you. I truly appreciate your partnership. You will find that working with your child is very rewarding and your child will treasure your involvement. **We are off!**

Sincerely,

