

Dear Family:

To kick off Unit 7, I will introduce students to the **y and suffix spelling rule**, which states that if a **y** follows a consonant in an open syllable at the end of a word, it needs to be changed to an **i** when adding any suffix. The substituted **i** will sound like the original **y** (**empty + ness = emptiness**). In addition, I will teach students that when a suffix begins with **i**, the **y** does not change and the suffix is simply added (**baby + ish = babyish**). Here is an example of how to mark these types of words:

**b** <sup>/ē/</sup> **ā** **y** **i** **sh**

**ē** **m** **p** **t** **i** **n** **e** **s** **s**

As part of this lesson, students will also learn how to pluralize words ending in **y**. When a word ends in a **y** after a consonant in an open syllable, students will know to follow the **y and suffix spelling rule** by changing the **y** to an **i**. They will then add **-es** to make the word plural (**family + es = families**). I will teach students that the suffix **-es** says /z/ when added to such words. Students will also learn how to pluralize words ending in an open syllable. They will add the suffix **es** to these words (**potato + es = potatoes**).

I hope you enjoy working on this unit. Feel free to let me know how the activities are progressing at home.

Sincerely,

