

Dear Family:

Foundations Unit 9 reviews the **r-controlled syllable**. This syllable contains a single vowel that is directly followed by the letter **r**. The **r** changes the sound of the vowel. For example, in the word **bark**, the vowel **a** has neither the short nor the long vowel sound – instead the sound is “controlled” by the **r**. This type of syllable is marked as follows:

bark
r

The vowel is circled with the letter **r** to emphasize that the two letters form the sound together. The **r-controlled syllable** can be combined with other syllables to make multisyllabic words. Therefore, we will not only review how to read and spell r-controlled syllables in isolation, but also combined with other syllable types and marked like this:

expert
c r

In the second week, students will learn that at the end of a multisyllabic word /ər/ can be spelled with **er**, **ar**, or **or** (as in **beggar**) and that **ar** and **or** are affected by a **w** or **qu** preceding it (as in **worm**). These are marked like all other **r-controlled syllables**:

doctor
c r

warm
r

Students will also learn that there is an **exception** to the **r-controlled syllable**. If the **r** is followed by another **r**, the preceding vowel is often short, as in the word **carry**. These exceptions are marked this way:

carry /ē/
o

Finally, students will learn that the **1-1-1 spelling rule applies to r-controlled words** (1-1-1 words have 1 syllable, 1 vowel and 1 consonant after the vowel). This means that when the baseword is a closed or r-controlled syllable with only one consonant following one vowel, you double the final consonant on the baseword if adding a vowel suffix. For example, the **r** is doubled in the 1-1-1 word **stir** when adding a vowel suffix and the word is marked this way:

stir + ing = **stirring**

Thank you for encouraging your child to apply these rules in all of their work!

Sincerely,

