Dear Family:

Is your child having a lot of difficulty reading and spelling? If so, please make an appointment to see me because slow and inaccurate reading of words are the best predictors of a possible reading difficulty.

For the next two weeks, I will teach the concept of a *closed syllable*. A closed syllable ends in a consonant and only has one vowel. The vowel in a closed syllable is short, as in the word "math" or "cat." The recognition of this word structure will be key as we continue with the program.

To mark a closed syllable, your child has learned to **scoop** or **underline** the word, put a **c** under the scoop to indicate "closed" and a **breve** (`) over the vowel to indicate it is short.

Even though all the words have been closed syllables, every once in a while ask, "Is this word a closed syllable?" and, "Why?"

I will also teach these vowel teams using the Vowel Teams poster: **ai**, **ay**, **ee**, **ea**, **ey**, **oi** and **oy**. Vowel teams are introduced for reference when students are reading throughout the day. These sounds will be learned in more depth for both reading and spelling in Level 2. In the meantime, we will practice the sounds during our Drills Sounds/Warm Up activity in class.

Let me know if you have any concerns.

Sincerely,





Review **closed syllables** with your child during the next 2 weeks.

Follow These 5 Steps:

- **1.** Dictate the word and have your child echo the word.
- **2.** Have your child tap out the sounds. Do not tap trick words (in bold).

- **3.** Have your child tell you the letters that go with those sounds.
- **4.** Have your child write the letters. It is helpful if you say the letters as your child writes them.
- **5.** Ask your child to point out the closed syllables in each sentence. (See Answer Key).

WEEK 1			
nd sentence to	your	child following the 5 steps listed above.	
Review Words	.	pill hush chins	
Review Words	→	crash fluffs snug	
Trick Words	•	say says would	
Sentence	→	Bob had the last mint.	
	Review Words Review Words Trick Words	Review Words → Review Words → Trick Words →	nd sentence to your child following the 5 steps listed above. Review Words → pill hush chins Review Words → crash fluffs snug Trick Words → say says would

		WEEK 2	
Dictate the words a	nd sentence to you	ur child following the 5 steps listed above.	
On Monday Dictate	Review Words	→ fuss shrubs drops	
On Tuesday Dictate	Review Words	→ lamp munch flags	
On Wednesday Dictate	Trick Words	⇒ see each between	
On Thursday Dictate	Sentence -	→ Pass the small block to Beth.	
		1	

Answer Key

WEEK 1 Sentence Closed Syllables - Bob, had, last, mint

WEEK 2 Sentence Closed Syllables - pass, small, block, Beth





Do the "Closed Syllable Search" Activity

Find and circle all the closed syllables. Cross out any syllable if it is not a closed syllable.

spin	crank	ask
no	grab	SO
sing	grass	I
lump	smell	tail
pink	eat	snap

Answer Key

Cross out the words no, so, I, tail and eat. Circle all other words.





Do the "Closed Syllable Search and Mark" Activity

Have your child read the words. Cross out any word that is not a closed syllable. Mark up the closed syllable words. Then write the closed syllable words on the lines provided.

Example:	boat	băg c	stěps C			
	clock		stej	o .	trash	
	winks		thre	ee	at	
	boat		chil	ls	toe	
	dash		hi		sick	
						
		<u> </u>				

Answer Key

Closed syllables: ${f clock}$, ${f step}$, ${f trash}$, ${f winks}$, ${f at}$, ${f chills}$, ${f dash}$, ${f sick}$.

Fun	dations® Trick Words	
		edch
	SQVS	between
WEEK 1	SQY WEEK 2	See

Cut words into flashcards. 1. Each night, help your child read all Trick Words from previous units, as well as these. 2. Have your child trace each new Trick Word with his or her finger and spell it aloud; and 3. Cover up the Trick Word and have your child write it with his or her finger on the table while naming each letter. ተ

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Name	•

Date:

Writing Grid for Word and Sentence Homework



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