

Dear Family:

Units 10 through 16 all work with the new vowel digraph syllable type, or “D” syllable type. In Unit 11 we will focus on the **long e sound**. The three sounds previously introduced will be our focus:

ee - jeep - /ē/

ea - eat - /ā/

ey - key - /ē/

The **ea** vowel combination also has the sounds /ē/ as in **bread**, and /ā/ as in **steak**, but these are less common and will not be studied at this time.

Just as before, the reading is much easier than the spelling. Therefore, the spelling option procedure will need to be practiced. In this Unit I will introduce the various spellings of /ē/ such as **ee** in **jeep**, **ea** in **eat**, and **ey** in **key**. Your child already knows that **e** has the long sound in the vowel-consonant-e syllable (as in **Pete**) and in the open syllable (as in **me** and **baby**). In the beginning or middle of a syllable, the most common spelling choices are **ee**, **ea** or **e-e** (e-consonant-e). At the end of a word, the most common spelling options are **y** or **ey**.

Perhaps a trip to the library will encourage your child to read. Some science books that may be of interest are:

A Seed is Sleepy by Dianna Hutts Aston (Chronicle Books, 2007)

An Egg is Quiet by Dianna Hutts Aston (Chronicle Books, 2006)

Electricity by Steve Parker (Dorling Kindersley, 1992)

Pyramid by James Putnam (Dorling Kindersley, 1994)

Also, a game such as **Boggle Junior** will promote spelling and word recognition. It will take several exposures to words before your child is secure with both the reading and spelling. Thank you for your help at home.

Sincerely,

