

Dear Family:

The first several units in Foundations® Level 2 will review concepts taught in Level 1 and also add new information. This is important as a key component of the program: we review and build upon the skills in place, strengthening previous concepts and giving students a base upon which to add new information. In Units 1-5, there will be a lot of emphasis placed on the **closed syllable** which makes the vowel short (**ă** in **apple**, **ĕ** in **Ed**, **ĭ** in **itch**, **ŏ** in **octopus**, **ŭ** in **up**).

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 in front of it, but it needs to have at least one consonant after it. Examples of closed syllables include **at**, **mat**, **math**, **mast** and **clash**. The short sound of the vowel is marked by the breve sign (˘).

In Unit 1, I shall reinforce the following concepts taught in Foundations Level 1 within the closed syllable concept:

The **digraph**, two letters that make one sound as in **ship (sh)**.

The 2- and 3-letter **consonant blend**, as in **trip (tr)** and **strip (str)**.

The **digraph blend**, as in the word **lunch (nch)**.

Blending and segmenting up to 6 sounds in one word, such as **script**.

I will continue to encourage students to use their sound-tapping strategy to help segment and blend sounds in words for both reading and spelling.

I will also teach students when to use **k**, **c** or **ck** when spelling words. Students will learn to use **c** most often at the beginning of words unless it is followed by **e**, **i** or **y**. They will learn to use **ck** at the end after a short vowel and **k** after a consonant.

