

Dear Family:

So far, I have only introduced /ar/ and /or/ in the r-controlled syllable type. The other three vowels **e**, **i**, **u**, are also affected by the letter **r**. All three (**er**, **ir**, and **ur**) have the same sound /ər/. The keywords are:

**er** - her - /ər/      **ir** - bird - /ər/      **ur** - burn - /ər/

These r-controlled combinations are not usually difficult for reading but they can be tricky for spelling. When you dictate a word that has an /ər/ sound, and your child is not sure if the letter should be an **er**, **ir** or **ur**, use a dictionary in order to check for the correct spelling.

Is it time for a trip to the library? You may want to select one of the following books. They might be a bit more difficult, but can be read by a second grader with your help.

***DogKu*** by Andrew Clements (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2007)

***Donovan's Word Jar*** by Monalisa DeGross (Harper Trophy, 1994)

***Fox and his Friends*** by Edward Marshall (Puffin, 1982)

***Sneakers the Seaside Cat*** by Margaret Wise Brown (HarperCollins, 2005)

Sincerely,

