

Dear Family:

In Unit 6, I will review the **open syllable** with students and teach the **open syllable exceptions**. **Open syllables** have **one vowel** which is the last letter in the syllable (as in **he**). This vowel's sound is **long** and to indicate this, it is marked with a macron (ˉ). Open syllables may be combined with other syllables to make multisyllabic words (as in **remote**). The **open syllable** is marked like this:

g ō  
o

We will also review that **y** often works as a vowel in **open syllables** and says /ī/ at the end of one syllable words (**cry**) and /ē/ at the end of multisyllabic words (**baby**). The sound can be marked this way:

s h y      ē m p t y  
o                      c                      o

Lastly, students will learn about **open syllable exceptions in unstressed or unaccented syllables**. This schwa (schwa is a vowel with an unexpected sound) occurs with **a** at the beginning or end of a word (**ago**, **extra**) and with **i** in the middle syllable (**compliment**). Please note that when **i** is in the middle syllable and is followed by a consonant, it has a schwa /ǘ/ or /ī/ sound (**gravity**). When **i** is in the middle syllable and is followed by a vowel, it sounds like an /ē/ (**radio**). The exceptions are marked like this:

e x t r a      g r ǘ v i t y      r ǘ d i ō  
c                      c                      o                      o

Remember to have fun with the enclosed exercises. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress.

Sincerely,

