

Dear Family:

Thus far, your child has learned many new things about words with the Foundations program. I am so thankful to have you assisting me in this endeavor.

In Unit 8, I will review the **consonant-le syllable**. This syllable is considered a "final stable" syllable. It is always the *last* syllable in a word and it has only three letters: a **consonant**, an **l** and an **e**. The **e** is the vowel and it is silent. The **consonant** and the **l** are sounded out like a blend. I will remind students that the **consonant-le syllable** is always the last syllable in a multisyllabic word. Take a look at the following examples and how we mark them:

simple  
c -le

table  
o -le

I will then introduce the **consonant-le exception**. This includes words that end with **stle**. Both the **t** and **e** are silent so **stle** is read as /sl/. Examples of the **consonant-le exception** include castle and whistle:

castle  
c -le

whistle  
c -le

I will teach students all the different ways to spell the /ə/ sound in a final syllable (as in **table**, **label** or **final**) and how to mark the schwa in these words:

label  
o c

Students will also learn how to add suffixes to **consonant -le syllables**. To add a suffix to a **consonant -le syllable**, students must follow the silent **e** spelling rule; they will drop the **e** to add a vowel suffix (settle - settling) and keep the **e** to add a consonant suffix (settle - settlement).

In week 3, students will learn about another final stable syllable. This one is also always the last syllable in a word. It always has four letters: either the glued sound **tion** or **sion**. Students will learn that **tion** says /shun/ as in vacation and **sion** says /shun/ as in mansion and /zhun/ as in television. The syllables are boxed as welded sounds:

mansion

Sincerely,

