

Dear Family:

The third type of syllable in English is called an **open syllable**. Even though your child has read and spelled many words with open syllables, we will now directly teach this syllable type and how to mark it. The open syllable has only one vowel and it does not have a consonant after it. Some examples include:

go flu we I

These are marked:

gō
o

Open syllables can be combined with closed and v-e syllables to form longer words:

prētēnd **prōvide**
o c o v-e

When studying open syllables, it is time to introduce **y as a vowel**. Know that **y** is a consonant when it begins a word, otherwise, it is a vowel. **Y** has 2 vowel sounds in an open syllable. In a one-syllable word, **y** has the long **i** sound as in **cry** and in multisyllabic words it usually has the long **e** sound as in **baby**. In addition to **y** being a consonant and a vowel, it can also be a suffix ending as in the word **lump - lumpy** or part of a suffix ending as in **safely** or **safety**. When **y** is a suffix, it has the sound of long **e**.

Sincerely,

