

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,

