

Dear Family:

Is your child having a great deal of difficulty reading and spelling the words? If so, I want you to make an appointment to see me because slow and inaccurate reading of words are the best predictors of a possible reading difficulty.

For the next two weeks, I am going to practice review words and teach the concept of a **closed syllable**. A closed syllable ends in a consonant and only has one vowel. The vowel in a closed syllable is short.

It is important for your child to recognize a closed syllable because when the vowel is closed in at the end of a word, the vowel sound is short, as in the word "**math**" or "**cat**". The recognition of this word structure will be key as we continue with the program.

To mark a closed syllable, your child has learned to **scoop** or **underline** the word, put a **c** under the scoop to indicate "closed" and a **breve** (\breve) over the vowel.

că[˘]t or mă[˘]t^h

Even though all the words have been closed syllables, every once in a while ask, "**Is this word a closed syllable?**" and, "**Why?**"

Let me know if you have any concerns.

Sincerely,



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James Gillies





Homework Guide

Review **closed syllables** with your child during the next 2 weeks.

Follow These 5 Steps:

1. Dictate the word and have your child echo the word.
2. Have your child tap out the sounds. Do not tap trick words.
3. Have your child tell you the letters that go with those sounds.
4. Have your child write the letters. It is helpful if you say the letters as your child writes them.
5. Ask your child to point out the closed syllables in each sentence. (See Answer Key).

WEEK 1

Dictate the words and sentence to your child following the 5 steps listed above.

On Monday Dictate	Review Words	→	pill	hush	chins
On Tuesday Dictate	Review Words	→	crash	fluffs	snug
On Wednesday Dictate	Trick Words	→	our	over	come
On Thursday Dictate	Sentence	→	Bob had the last mint.		

WEEK 2

Dictate the words and sentence to your child following the 5 steps listed above.

On Monday Dictate	Review Words	→	fuss	quick	paths
On Tuesday Dictate	Review Words	→	lamp	munch	flags
On Wednesday Dictate	Trick Words	→	would	after	also
On Thursday Dictate	Sentence	→	Pass the small block to Beth.		

Answer Key

WEEK 1 Sentence Closed Syllables - Bob, had, last, mint

WEEK 2 Sentence Closed Syllables - pass, small, block, Beth

Writing Grid for Word and Sentence Homework

Writing grid consisting of 20 rows. Each row has a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. The rows are decorated with cartoon characters: a sun with a face, a bird, a worm, a frog, and a cat. The characters are placed at the beginning and end of each row.



Do the "Closed Syllable Search" Activity

Find and circle all the closed syllables. Cross out any syllable if it is not a closed syllable.

spin

crank

ask

no

grab

so

sing

grass

I

lump

smell

tail

pink

eat

snap

Answer Key

Cross out the words **no**, **so**, **I**, **tail** and **eat**. Circle all other words.

WEEK 1

our

over

come

WEEK 2

would

after

also

- **Cut words into flashcards.** 1. Each night, help your child **read** all Trick Words from previous units, as well as these. 2. Have your child **trace** each new Trick Word with his or her finger and **spell** it aloud; and 3. Cover up the trick word and have your child write it with his or her finger on the table while naming each letter.