

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,





## Homework Guide

### Follow These 5 Steps:

1. Dictate the word or sentence.
2. Have your child repeat it.
3. Have your child write it.
4. Read the word or sentence again and have your child proofread it carefully.
5. Check his/her work.

#### WEEK 1

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

On Monday Dictate	<b>Review Words</b>	→	invite	these	born	captive
On Tuesday Dictate	<b>Current Words</b>	→	twirl	surf	fern	hurt first
On Wednesday Dictate	<b>Trick Words</b>	→	picture	learn	know	again earth
On Thursday Dictate	<b>Sentence</b>	→	The milk spilled on my shirt.			

#### WEEK 2

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

On Monday Dictate	<b>Review Words</b>	→	birch	turn	girl	curl
On Tuesday Dictate	<b>Current Words</b>	→	termite	sturdy	thirsty	lobster disturb
On Wednesday Dictate	<b>Trick Words</b>	→	father	brother	mother	carry always
On Thursday Dictate	<b>Sentence</b>	→	The birds sing in the morning.			



**Do the “Read, Write and Mark” Activity**

Have your child read the following words, copy them on the line and mark up the syllables.

closed:      open:      v-e:      r-controlled:  
cūp      hē      bāke      park

whirl	<u>w</u> <u>h</u> ( <u>i</u> ) <u>rl</u>	lunch	_____
	r		
birch	_____	twirl	_____
me	_____	flu	_____
time	_____	cry	_____
birth	_____	math	_____
skirt	_____	plane	_____
turn	_____	home	_____
tent	_____	dirt	_____

**Answer Key**

<b>closed:</b>	<b>open:</b>	<b>v-e:</b>	<b>r-controlled:</b>
tent, lunch, math	me, flu, cry	plane, home, time	all other words



**Do the "Match the Syllable" Activity**

Have your child read the syllables on the left and right. Have them match the syllables to form real words.

for	ber
num	ker
hor	est
ba	net

ter	der
ru	sty
thir	mite
or	ler

Have your child write the words from above on the lines below and then scoop or underline the syllables.

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**Do the "Fill In the Word" Activity**

Have your child read the sentences and select the correct word from the box to complete each sentence (using each word only once). Write the word on the line and reread the completed sentence.

carpenter   porcupine   carton   number   horn  
shortstop   morning   corn   bakery   order

- 1 My dog was struck by \_\_\_\_\_ quills.
- 2 In baseball, I like to be the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 The \_\_\_\_\_ of milk is on the shelf.
- 4 The bird sang in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 Dad likes to honk the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 This cake is from the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 The \_\_\_\_\_ made that bench.
- 8 Did you \_\_\_\_\_ a hamburger?
- 9 Ten is an even \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10 I like to have \_\_\_\_\_ with hotdogs.

WEEK 1

picture

learn

earth

WEEK 2

mother

father

brother

→ **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.

# Writing Grid for Word and Sentence Homework



## Review Words



1

2



3

4



## Current Words



1

2



3

4



## Trick Words



5

1



2

3



4

5



## Sentence



1

