

Dear Family Member,

In this unit, students will be introduced to r-controlled vowel sounds, the concept of a syllable, and past-tense verbs, and they will continue working on descriptive and informational writing.

What will my student learn?

Students will learn the following r-controlled vowel sounds: /er/ spelled 'er', as in *her*; /ar/ spelled 'ar', as in *car*; and /or/ spelled 'or', as in *for*. Students will practice recognizing the sound/spelling patterns they have learned and begin decoding two-syllable words. Students will learn with oral practice first and then encounter these skills in the Activity Book and Reader, *The Green Fern Zoo*. Students will work on grammar by being introduced to past-tense verb forms ending with *-ed*. They will also review nouns, verbs, and adjectives. They will use the Reader to practice thinking about the five senses to describe objects, and they will then describe and write an informational text about an animal from the text.

Additional Practice

Tricky Words		
<i>today</i>	<i>yesterday</i>	<i>tomorrow</i>

Students can practice these words each night by doing the following activities:

1. **Sentence Creation:** Have your student use Tricky Words in sentences. Encourage them to create sentences that demonstrate the meaning of each word and explain its context.
2. **Daily Use:** Encourage your student to use Tricky Words in everyday conversations. Prompt them to incorporate Tricky Words into discussions about their day, activities, or observations.

Words That Follow a Spelling Pattern		
<i>cart</i>	<i>her</i>	<i>fork</i>
<i>farm</i>	<i>over</i>	<i>corn</i>
<i>hard</i>	<i>winter</i>	<i>sort</i>

Students can practice these words each night by doing the following activities:

1. **Drawing and Writing:** Invite your student to draw a picture that includes items with the focus spelling patterns, then help them label the items in their drawing.
2. **Word Challenges:** Challenge your student to find words with the focus spelling pattern in books, in magazines, or around the house. When they identify a word, discuss its spelling and meaning.