

# Six Basic Syllable Spelling Patterns

(Moats, 1995)

**1. closed:** These syllables end in a consonant. The vowel sound is generally short (examples: *rabbit, napkin*).

**2. open:** These syllables end in a vowel. The vowel sound is generally long (examples: *tiger, pilot*).

**3. vowel-silent *e* (VCe):** These syllables generally represent long-vowel sounds (examples: *compete, decide*).

**4. vowel team:** Many vowel sounds are spelled with vowel digraphs such as *ai, ay, ea, ee, oa, ow, oo, oi, oy, ou, ie, and ei*. The vowel digraphs appear in the same syllable (examples: *boat, explain*).

**5. *r*-controlled:** When a vowel is followed by *r*, the letter *r* affects the sound of the vowel. The vowel and the *r* appear in the same syllable (examples: *bird, turtle*).

**6. consonant + *le*:** Usually when *le* appears at the end of a word and is preceded by a consonant, the consonant + *le* form the final syllable (examples: *table, little*).