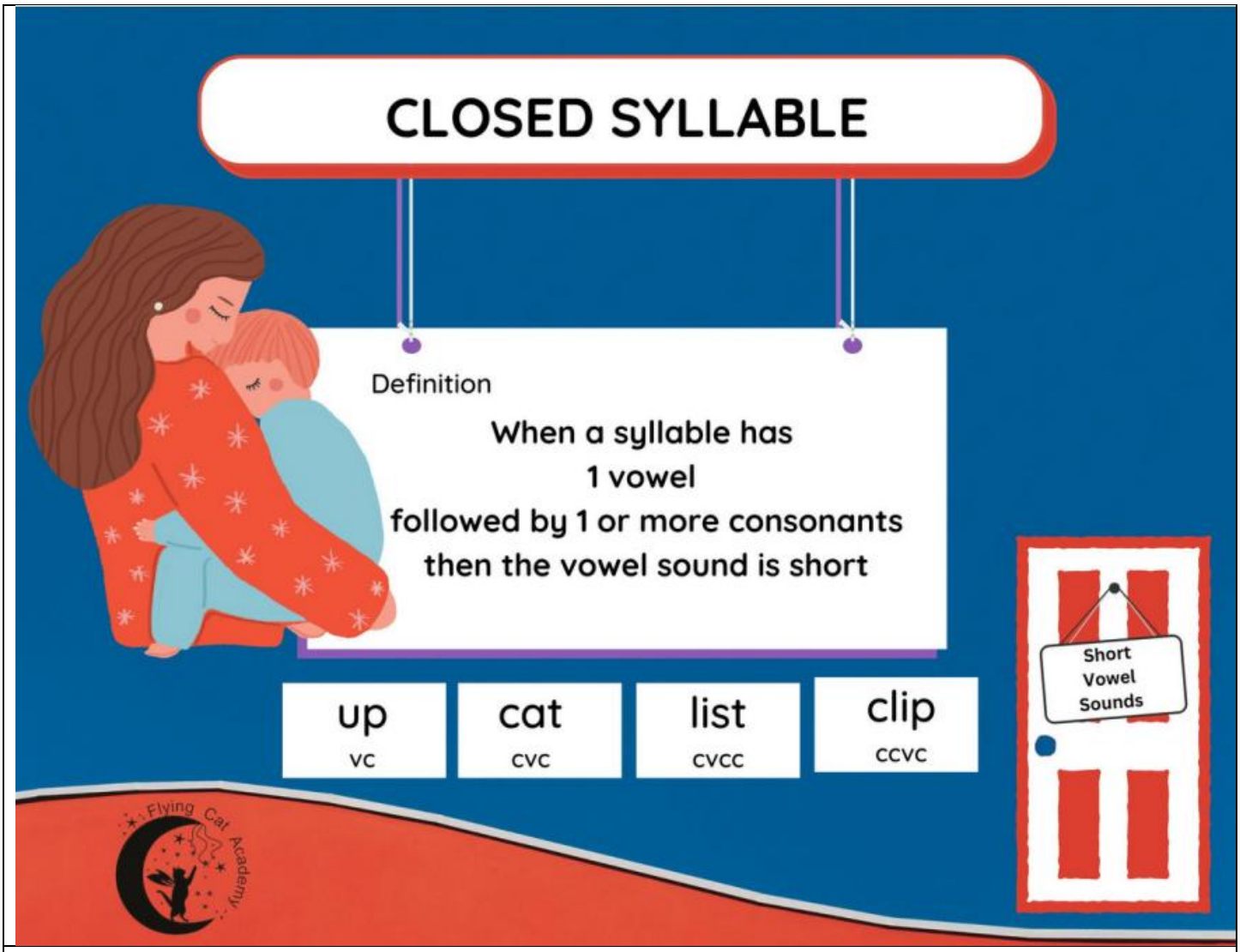
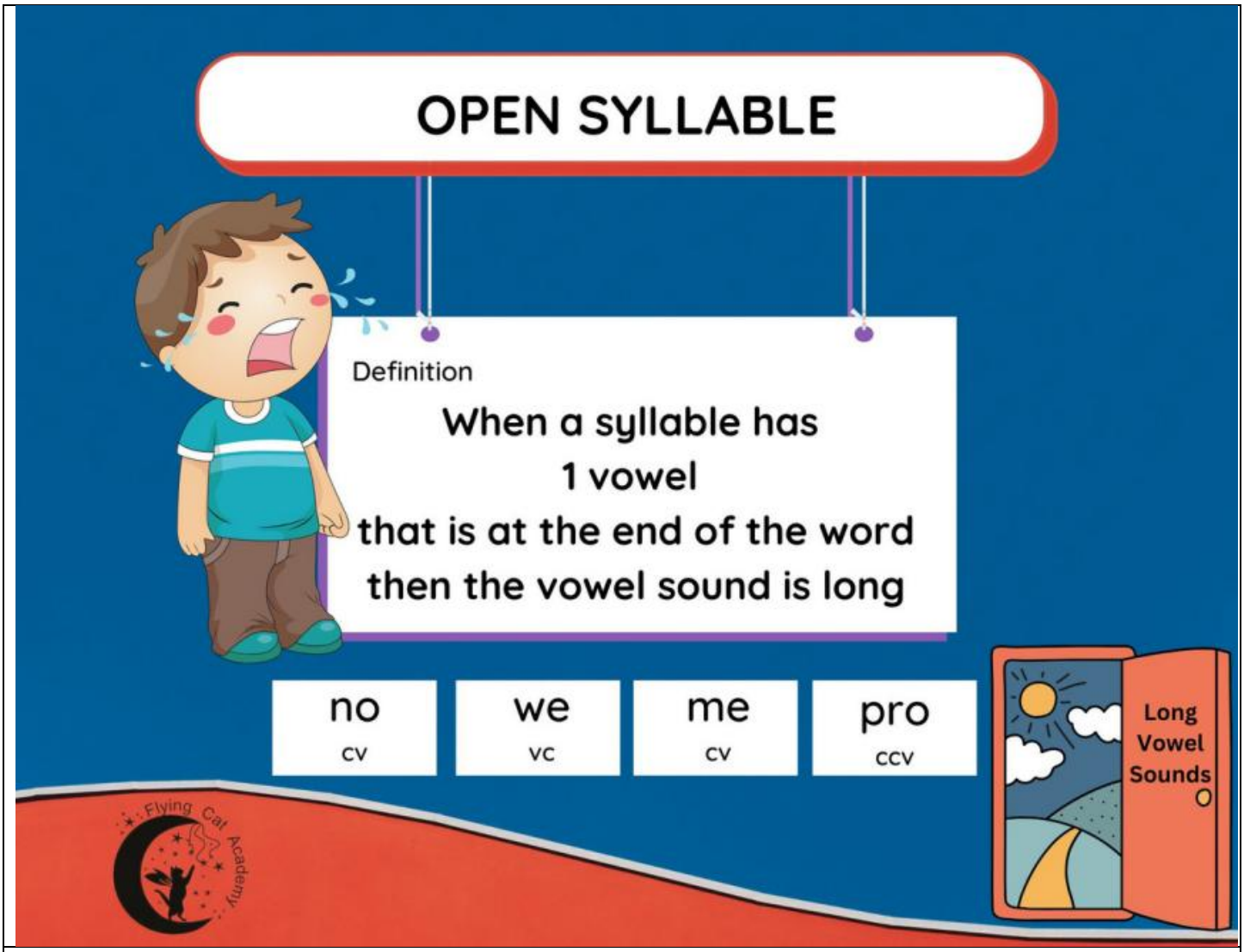


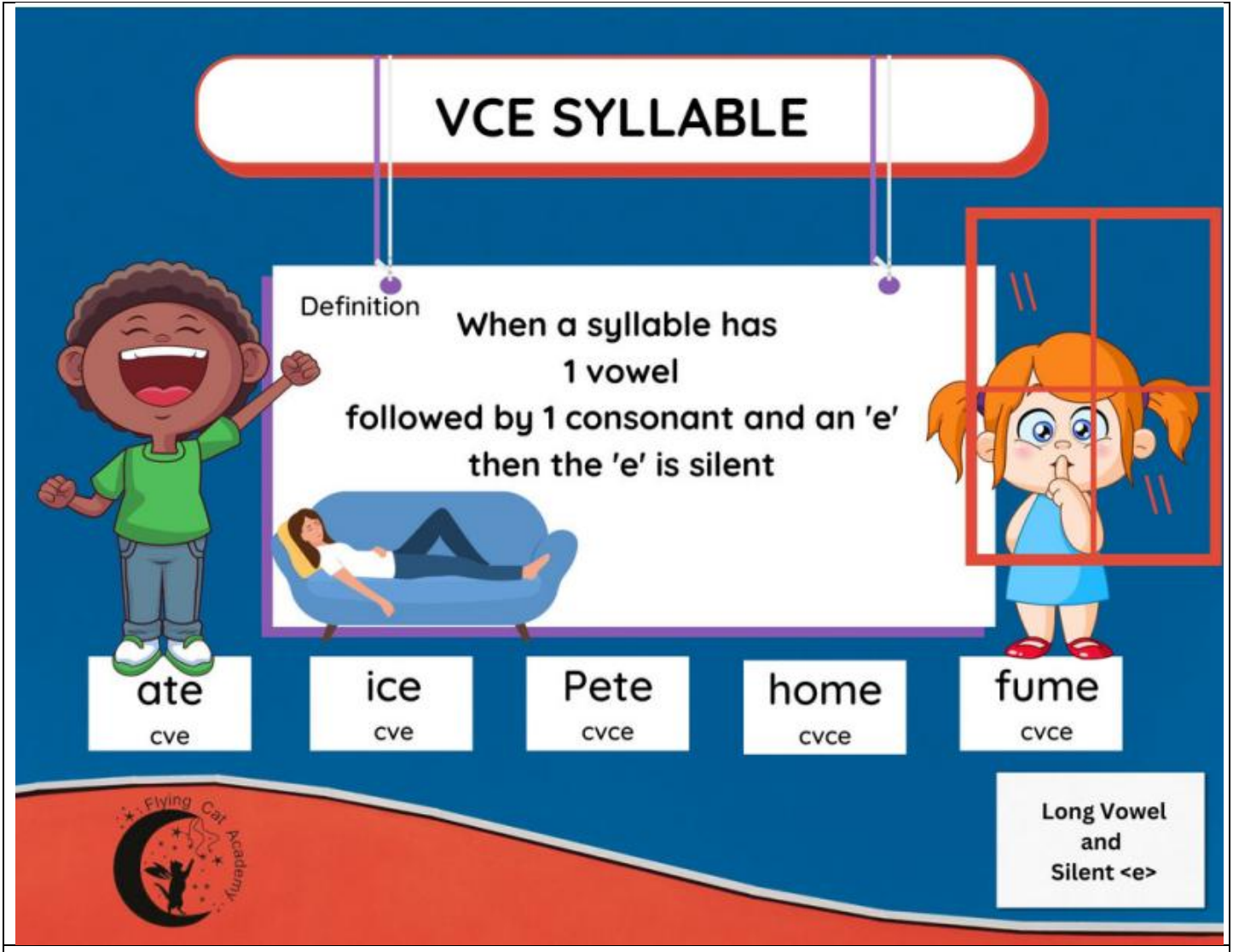
Closed Syllable Story

In a closed syllable there is at least one consonant after the vowel. We call this final consonant the "babysitter' of the vowel. While the babysitter is there, the vowel is calm and happy, so it says, it's soft sound (short sound).



Open Syllable Story

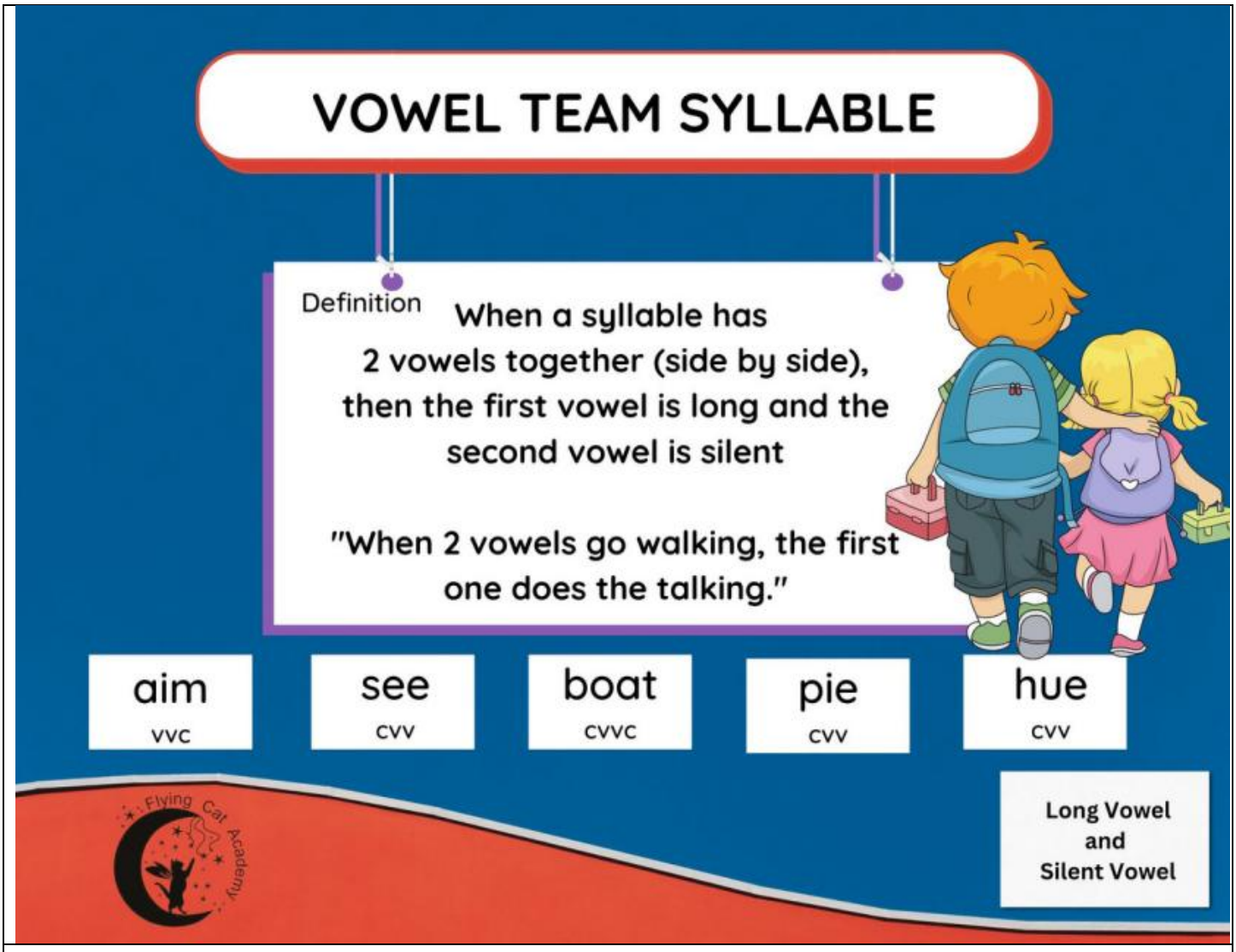
In the word *met*, the <e> is calm and happy because it has a consonant babysitter, so it says its short sound. But what happens if the consonant babysitter goes downstairs to take a phone call? Now the vowel is all alone and he gets scared. He wanders outside, looking for his mommy. He screams his name (long vowel sound) out loud to tell his mom, "E is over here!" The word *met* is now *me*.



VCE Syllable Story

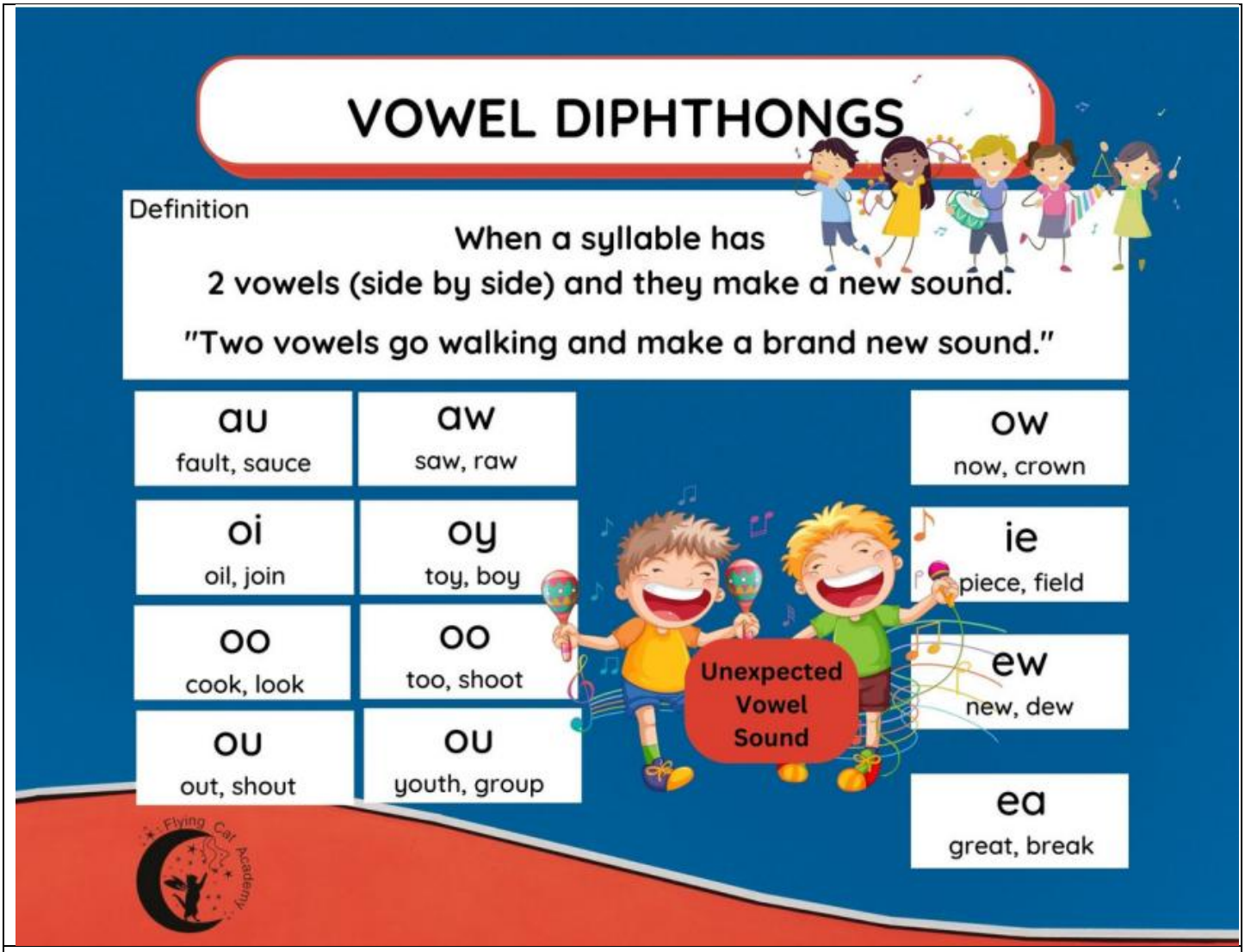
In a closed syllable, the vowel has a consonant babysitter, so it says it happy short sound. Is there a way to make the vowel says its name when there is a consonant babysitter there? Yes! The vowel's best friend is 'e' can make this happen. <E> sneaks up to the window and sees that the consonant babysitter is sleeping on the couch. She doesn't want to wake up the babysitter so <e> is as silent as she can be. She whispers to her vowel friend, "Hey! Are you in there? Say your name if you're in there."

For example, let's imagine that 'l' has come over to babysit the vowel <a> in the word *pal*. When <l> falls asleep on the couch, <e> comes to the window and whispers, "'A' are you in there?" The vowel <a> in the word *pale* says, "A is in here."



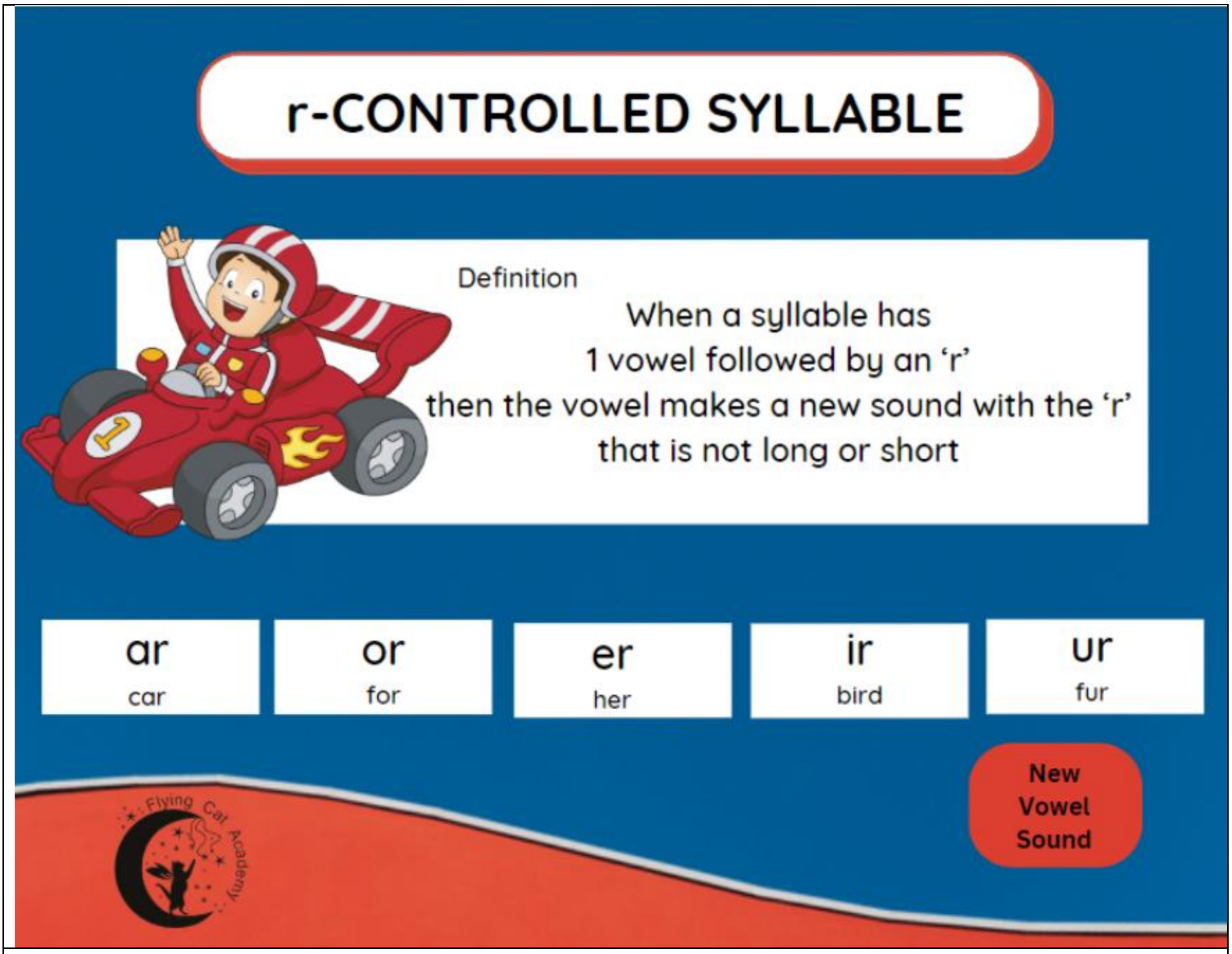
Vowel Team Story

Like the VCE syllable type, the vowel team is syllable type is a way to make a vowel say its name. In a vowel team word such as *team*, we say, "Two vowels go walking and the first one does the talking." Imagine that the first vowel is the older sibling and he is walking his younger sister to school. They walk side by side. The <e> is older so he is more confident and does the talking if they meet an adult. The younger sister, <a>, is shy and stays silent.



Vowel Diphthong Story

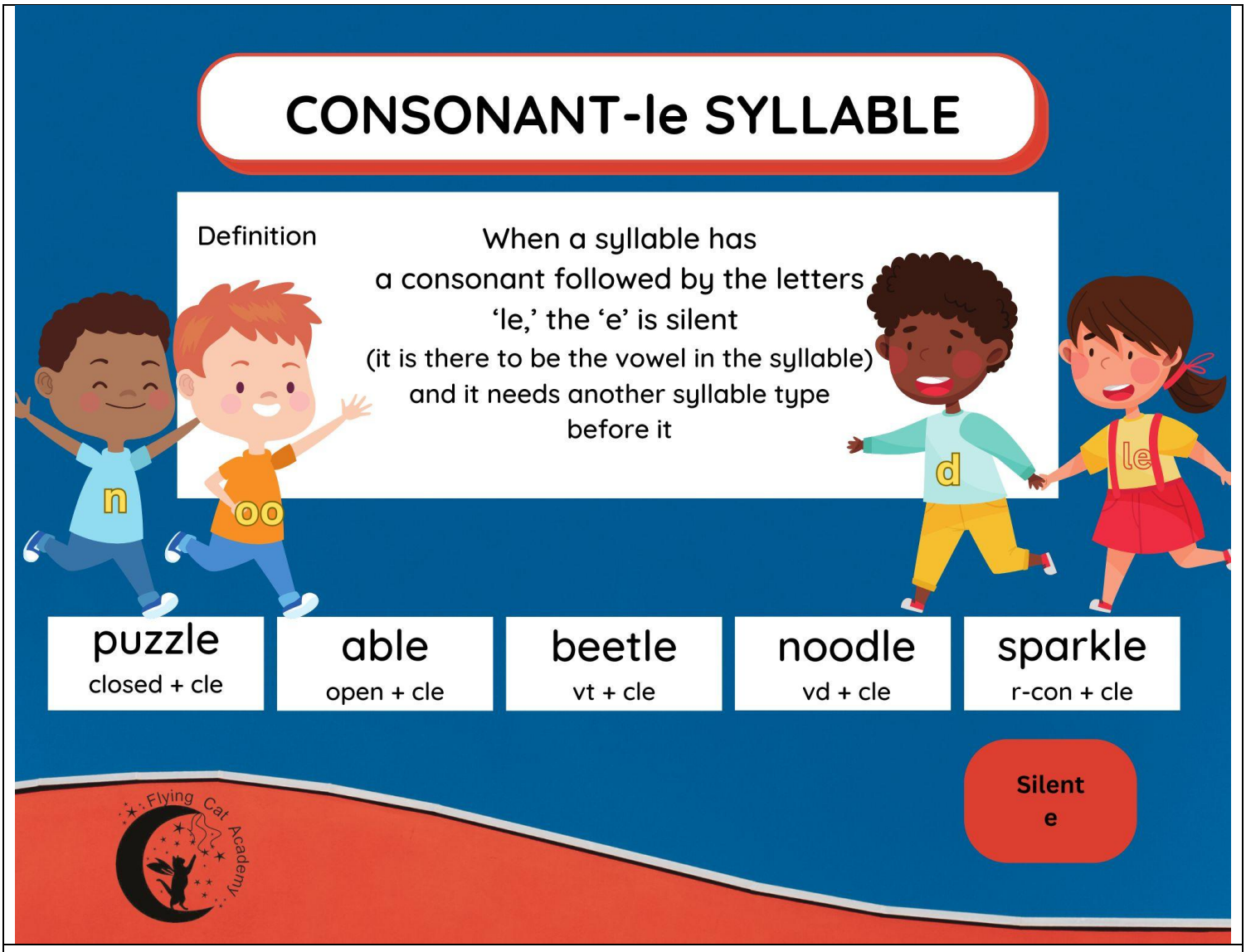
The vowel diphthong looks like a vowel team because two vowels are side by side. However, the vowel diphthong is different than a vowel team because the vowels make a brand-new sound. Imagine two best friends are in music class. They each grab different instruments and start playing. The sound that they create is brand new. It is something totally different than either of them could make on their own.



r-Controlled Syllable

The sound of <r> is one of the hardest sounds to say. When a vowel is followed by an <r> we don't even try to say the vowel properly because it is just too hard. Instead, we make sounds that are neither long nor short.

Imagine the <r> is a race car and the vowels are just regular old cars. The <r> race car is much more powerful than the vowels, so it is in charge. The "r-car" revs its engine and shouts its name or makes its <r> sound and drowning out the vowels.



Consonant-le Syllable

The consonant-le syllable type is the only syllable type that needs another syllable type to be with it to make a word. The <e> in the 'cle' is silent.

Think of consonant-le as the two new kids in town. For example, imagine that <d> and <le> are two siblings. They have just moved to town so that don't know anyone. Two other kids, <n> and <oo> offer to show them around town. They walk around together, making the word *noodle*.