

Sometimes my child reads a word correctly on one page but can't figure it out on the very next page. Why does this happen?

Question 8 from *Helping Your Child Become a Reader*
(Scanlon, Anderson, Barnes, Morse, & Yurkewecz-Stellato, 2024¹)

Beginning readers draw on a lot of sources of information when they are trying to figure out words they can't immediately identify. Sometimes these sources of information work together well to help the child figure out the word and sometimes they don't. Reading is a complicated process, especially for beginners. Caregivers should try to avoid expressing impatience when difficulties such as these occur. We do not want children to feel frustrated by or anxious about reading.



When a child reads a word correctly in one place but not in another, on occasion, it can be helpful to look back to the page where the word was read correctly and say something like, “When you saw this word here, you figured it out – which is great!” Encourage the child to reread the sentence in which the word was read correctly. Then, take the child back to the page where the word was challenging and encourage the child to try the sentence again.

¹ The complete 23 question booklet can be accessed at: eltep.org/isa-parent-booklet
All individual questions and the complete booklet can be shared for non-commercial purposes.