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?

It is important to realize that beginning readers draw on a lot of sources of information to support identification of words that are not in their sight vocabularies. Sometimes these sources of information will work together well to help the child figure out the word and sometimes they won’t. Reading is a rather complicated process, especially at the beginning stages. Parents should try to avoid expressing impatience when difficulties like this occur. We do not want the child to feel frustrated or anxious about reading.

When a child reads a word correctly in one place but not in another, on occasion, it might 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 where she correctly identified the word. And then, take her back to the page where the word was challenging and encourage her to try the sentence again.