

Sometimes my child gets annoyed if I provide a word she/he doesn't recognize. Why?

Question 12 from Helping Your Child Become a Reader
(Scanlon, Anderson, Barnes, Morse, & Yurkewecz-Stellato, 2024¹)

For beginning readers, figuring out unknown words can often be an enjoyable challenge – like solving a puzzle. If they are told the words too quickly, it may take away the fun. Therefore, when children are trying to figure out a word, it is useful to allow at least 5 or 10 seconds (or more if the child doesn't seem frustrated) before offering help. Be encouraging about their attempts, even if they are unsuccessful. For example, you might say, “That is a puzzling word, but it is good practice to try to figure it out on your own.” (If it is clear what the child tried, you might name it. For example, “I noticed you trying some different sounds for the ...”, or “I noticed you reading past the word you weren't sure of...”.)



DON'T
TELL ME!!

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.