Skill-Building Book Tips
7 Essential Life Skills

Discover *Baby Talk* in a way that highlights Communicating, a Life Skill that promotes Executive Functions. This Life Skill is much more than understanding language, speaking, reading and writing. It's the skill of **determining what you want to communicate** and **realizing how our communications will be.**

Tip

When the book says: "Where are baby's toes?" you can point to your baby's toes, as well as to the babies' toes in the pictures on the pages.

Skill:

Communication centers on conversations—with sounds, with words, with movements and with facial expressions. This book provides an ideal opportunity to have many conversations with your baby.

The best conversations involve what researchers call "**Take-Turns Talk**"—you or your child does something and the other responds, back and forth like a game of ball. Use this book to watch your child's response to the words and pictures and build on what she says (with sounds, with looks, with movements) and extend it. If your baby says, "Aaahhh," you can say, "Aaahhh" back. This is a vitally important brain-building activity.

Tip

While you read this book with your child, follow the actions ("so big" and "patty-cake," for example).

Skill

Using the words and repeating the actions on the pages help children connect words to real experience and promote the skill of Communicating. It is a step toward determining what you want to say, an **Executive Function** skill.

Baby Talk
By Penny Gentieu
A boy and his mother go to the beach where she teaches him how to draw Chinese words in the sand by showing him how the words look like pictures of what they represent. A charming portrayal of the connections between written words and their meanings.

These tips sheets were developed by *Mind in the Making*, in collaboration with First Book. Find more books and materials on the First Book Marketplace, a resource available exclusively to educators and programs serving children in need. **Visit: www.fbmarketplace.org.**

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MIND in the Making
The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs