

# Skill-Building Book Tips

## 7 Essential Life Skills

Read *Bark, George* 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

As you read, *Bark, George*, ask your child:

- “Is George barking now? What animal does he sound like?”
- “How does George’s mother feel when her puppy doesn’t bark?”

What do the pictures tell you about her reaction?” Share the answers with your child and point to what’s happening in the pictures. As your child gets older, encourage him to come up with answers. Talk about a time when you or your child didn’t understand something because the other person was speaking in a way that was foreign to you. Talk about what you did to understand that person.

### Skill

This conversation about misunderstandings will help your child understand how to **overcome barriers in how we communicate**. This back-and-forth interaction is what researchers call “**Take-Turns Talk**.” Like a game of ball, one of you says or does something and the other responds. The importance of these everyday interactions to brain building is a key finding from child development research.

### Tip

Act out this story with your child. Shake your head no, laugh or act surprised with each sound George makes.

### Skill

When you use different voices and facial expressions, you’re showing your child **different ways to communicate**. **Pretending** calls on **Executive Function** skills, because you must put aside your own reaction and “become” someone else.

### Tip

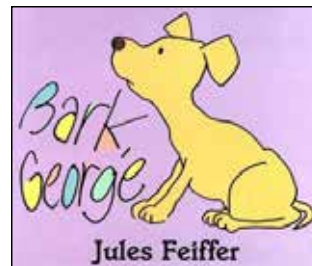
Talk about the end of the story when George doesn’t bark, but says “hello” to the people.

### Skill

This book shares the **joy and humor of communicating** in different ways!

### **Bark, George** By Jules Feiffer

In this very funny book, George’s mother asks her puppy to bark, but instead, he meows, quacks, oinks and moos. When she takes George to the vet to find out what is going on, the vet reaches deep inside of George and pulls out a cat, a duck, a pig and a cow.



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](http://www.fbmarketplace.org).