

Skill-Building Book Tips

7 Essential Life Skills

Jump into *Blue Hat, Green Hat* in a way that highlights Critical Thinking, a Life Skill that promotes Executive Functions. This Life Skill is the ongoing search for **valid and reliable knowledge to guide beliefs, decisions and actions.**

Tip

This story invites children to figure out what things go together or to categorize, such as hats go on heads. The clues to decipher where things go are in both the drawings and the word “oops.” When the turkey puts the clothes on the wrong way, you can ask your child:

- “Where should the hat go?”

With a very young child, answer the question yourself; with an older child, she can answer. If your child wants to have fun and play with where the clothing should go, that’s fine. You can say:

- “Hats should go on heads, but you can put them in other places for fun.”

Skill

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 back-and-forth, everyday interactions to brain building is a key finding from child development research.

Tip

Ask your child:

- “What happens when the turkey puts the coat on his face?”
- “Will the turkey be able to see, to walk, to keep his tail feathers warm?”

Skill

Critical Thinking promotes the search for **valid and reliable knowledge.**

Tip

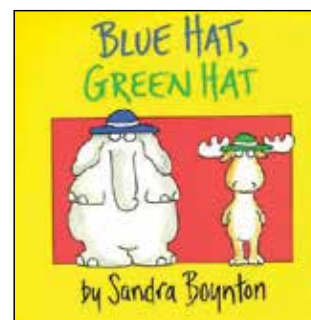
Once your child knows the rhythm of the story, ask her to search for answers with you. Show the picture and ask: “Where should the ‘oops’ go?” Then you can point to picture of the turkey as a source of information.

Skill

In order to **think critically**, children need to be **observant.** This story invites children to figure out where things go or to **categorize** them, which calls on **Executive Function** skills.

Blue Hat, Green Hat By Sandra Boynton

Most of the animals are wearing clothes the proper way, but—oops! —the turkey cannot figure out where his clothes should go. Toddlers adore this fresh and funny introduction to colors, clothes and very silly mistakes.



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.**