

Skill-Building Book Tips

7 Essential Life Skills

Explore *Seven Blind Mice* 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

As each mouse, in turn, tries to find out what the strange Something is, ask your child:

- “What do YOU think the strange Something is? Why?”

Be sure to help your child look for clues in the pictures to help him or her think through answers to your questions.

Skill

Asking questions and pursuing clues involves looking carefully at details and making predictions from the information in the book and what your child already knows, all aspects of Critical Thinking. This back-and-forth conversation 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.

Seven Blind Mice

By Ed Young

One day, a strange Something appears by the pond. Each day, a different blind mouse runs to the pond to learn more and report the findings to the other mice. They disagree, until finally one mouse explores the whole Something and comes back to report the truth. This book is a visual delight and a page-turner.



Tip

There's so much information in the pictures and the words that you can explore with your child. For example, the mice who have already explored the strange Something all group together on the left and the returning mouse explains his or her findings only to those who haven't looked themselves. You can ask your child:

- “Which mice have already explored the Something? Which mice haven't?”
- “In this picture, how many mice still have to look?”
- “What day of the week will the next mouse go out to try to find the answer to what the strange Something is?”

Skill

In this conversation, you are helping your child pay attention to many details—color, number, days of the week, etc. Paying careful attention to clues is important in finding answers to something you don't know.

For more ways to help your child learn and develop, visit
mindinthemaking.org

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

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Tip

At the end of the book, there is a Mouse Moral: “Knowing in part may make a fine tale, but wisdom comes from seeing the whole.” Ask your child:

- “What do you think the Mouse Moral means? Did you ever think you knew something, but it was only part of the answer?”

Share a time when you had a similar experience of thinking you knew something because you only had partial information.

Skill

The Mouse Moral is a great description of Critical Thinking—of making sure that you are searching for valid and accurate information by seeing the whole picture. This process calls on Executive Function skills.

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.