

Skill-Building Book Tips

7 Essential Life Skills

Hop through *The Runaway Bunny* 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

The Runaway Bunny can be read on many different levels. With a young child, you can tell the story in your own words, pointing out how the Mother Rabbit has to keep problem solving—figuring out ways to find her runaway bunny.

Skill

We use Critical Thinking in **problem solving**, which calls on **Executive Function** skills.

Tip

You can ask questions, such as about how much the Mother Rabbit cares and about imagination:

- “Why do you think the Mother Rabbit will do anything to find her bunny?”
- “Can rabbits really fly? How do you know?”

Skill

The back-and-forth conversation you have with your child 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.

With older children, Critical Thinking can be promoted by **encouraging them to be curious and think about what they think and believe**. Ask questions that promote Critical Thinking about the rabbit’s decisions and actions.

Tip

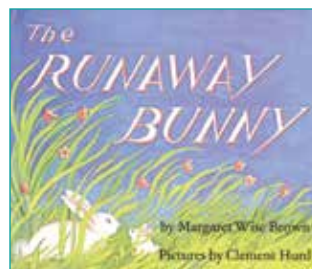
Ask your child to find the bunny in all of the color pictures, such as in the flowers. For those children who know the author Margaret Wise Brown’s book, *Goodnight Moon*, ask if they recognize the cow jumping over the moon drawing in the room with the fireplace.

Skill

Critical Thinking involves being **observant**.

The Runaway Bunny By Margaret Wise Brown

In this reassuring classic, a loving mother tells her little bunny that no matter where he goes, she will always find him again. Children relate to the little bunny’s desire for independence and enjoy the story’s pattern of cause and effect.



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**.