

Skill-Building Book Tips

7 Essential Life Skills

Discover *What Can You Do with a Paleta?* 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 you read *What Can You Do with a Paleta?*, ask your child:

- “What else do you think the children are going to do with their paleta? What would you do? Why?”

Share what you would do and why.

Skill

Asking questions and thinking about answers is a good way to promote Critical Thinking. Exploring the reasons behind what you do helps your child use and synthesize information. 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.

Tip

This book presents lots of information about life in the barrio and includes Spanish words interspersed in the English section.

Ask your child:

- “What do you know about life in the barrio from reading this book? How do you know that? How is life there different or the same as life where you live?”

Skill

Asking your child to gather information about the context of a story helps your child look at what is around him more carefully: how adults and children dress, what they do during the day, what their relationships are like. This process of careful observation is an important aspect of Critical Thinking.

Tip

Ask your child why it might be a hard decision for the girl to choose between strawberry and coconut paleta. Talk about a time when your child and/or you had a hard decision and the steps he used to make a decision.

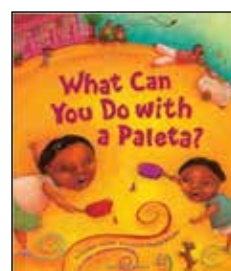
Skill

Calling attention to the decision-making process and helping children apply it in their everyday lives promote an understanding of the steps we use to solve problems, all important aspects of Executive Function skills.

Are *What Can You Do with a Paleta?*

By Carmen Tafolla

What Can You Do With a Paleta? is the fanciful story of all of the things you can do with an icy-cold pop made from all natural ingredients: paint your tongue and scare your brother, make new friends or use it to cool off. And “you can lick it and slurp it and... gobble it all down.” A wonderful story of a Mexican tradition.



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.**