

Skill-Building Book Tips

7 Essential Life Skills

Discover *Rickshaw Girl* in a way that highlights **Self-Directed, Engaged Learning**, a Life Skill that promotes Executive Functions. It is through learning that we can realize our potential. As the world changes, so can we, for as long as we live—as long as we learn.

Principles of Self-Directed, Engaged Learning

- Establish a trustworthy relationship with your child.
- Help children set and work toward their own goals.
- Involve children socially, emotionally and intellectually.
- Elaborate and extend children’s learning.
- Help children practice, synthesize and generalize.
- Help children become increasingly accountable.
- Create a community of learners.

Tip

Naima wanted to do things that boys in her village could do but weren’t acceptable for girls, like making money to help her family and drive a rickshaw. But Naima finds that change is coming. As the woman who owns the repair shop tells Naima, “Things are changing whether people around here like it or not. These days a woman who wants to start her own business can borrow money from our women’s bank. We decided to put our money together and help each other.”

Ask your child:

- “Can you think of a time when you wanted to do something that wasn’t accepted practice? How did that feel?”

Tell your child about some of the things that weren’t accepted practice when you were growing up and that you helped change.

Skill

Self-Directed, Engaged Learning is furthered when children and adults have **meaningful goals of their own that they pursue**. **Executive Function** skills are driven by goals.

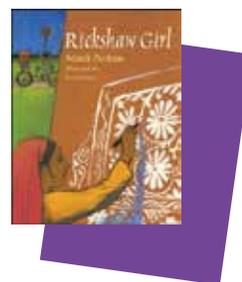
Tip

Naima was an artist. Eventually, she was able to use this strength to learn new skills to make money and repair

Rickshaw Girl

By Mitali Perkins

Rickshaw Girl is the contemporary story of a young Bangladeshi girl, Naima, who excels at painting traditional alpana patterns, but chafes under societal dos and don’t for girls. “If only I HAD been born a boy,” she thinks, because then she could earn money to help her struggling family. First, she dreams of helping her father drive his rickshaw, but crashes it on a test drive. Then, desperate to help pay for the repairs, she disguises herself as a boy and goes out to find the repair shop to see if she can trade her skill in painting in exchange for the rickshaw repairs. That’s when a whole new world of possibilities opens up.



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the rickshaw she crashed by helping a new woman business owner paint damaged rickshaws. Talk with your child about her strengths and how she can use these strengths to learn more and achieve goals.

Skill

Self Directed, Engaged Learning includes **building on individual strengths**. This back-and-forth conversation you have about this book 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.

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.**