

Skill-Building Book Tips

7 Essential Life Skills

Explore *The Snowy Day* 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

Have a conversation with your child about Peter’s experiences and how he had fun on his own playing in the snow.

Then elaborate and extend this discussion to your child’s life, asking: “What are some things you enjoy doing alone?”

Skill

Truly engaged learning is **self-directed!** We don’t always have to interact with others or be entertained by technology. *The Snowy Day* is a great example. This back-and-forth conversation you and your child 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.

Tip

Peter’s goal is exploring the snow.

Ask your child:

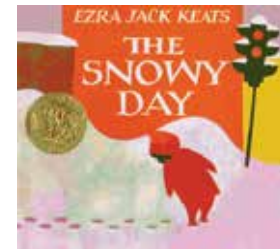
- “What are the many ways that Peter learns about the snow?”

Ask your child about something he’d like to explore. Share an experience when you learned something through exploring.

The Snowy Day

By Ezra Jack Keats

In this endearing classic, a boy named Peter awakens to find his world transformed by snow. With sled in hand, he sets out on his own to explore a winter wonderland. Children readily relate to Peter’s curiosity and desire for independence.



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One of the principles of promoting Self-Directed Engaged, Learning is **helping children set and then work toward goals**. **Executive Function** skills are driven by goals.

Tip

Peter brings some snow into the house and then it disappears.

Ask your child:

- “What happened to the snow in Peter’s pocket?”

Set up an experiment to show your child what happens when we leave something icy in a warm house by putting an ice cube onto a washcloth and seeing what happens to it over time.

Skill

By doing so, you are **elaborating and extending** what your child has learned from the book, and thus strengthening your child’s learning.

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**.