

Skill-Building Book Tips

7 Essential Life Skills

Try reading *Not A Box* in a way that highlights Making Connections, a Life Skill that promotes Executive Functions. This Life Skill is at the heart of learning—**figuring out what’s the same and what’s different, and sorting these things into categories. Making unusual connections is at the core of creativity.** In a world where people can Google for information, it’s the people who can see connections who are able to go beyond knowing information to **using this information well.**

Tip

As you read *Not a Box*, point to the outline of the box in each picture, showing your child how the shape becomes part of something different.

Skill

When you point out the box shape (outlined in black) within the other objects that the rabbit imagines, you are helping your child see an object in many new ways. This builds connections between new and old information, which are necessary for **sorting, classifying** and seeing **that one thing can represent something else**—a basic skill in learning about reading, writing, science and math in the future. All of these ways of thinking call on **Executive Functions** of the brain.

Tip

On each black and white page with the rabbit and the box, ask your child to guess what the box is going to become. There are no wrong answers here.

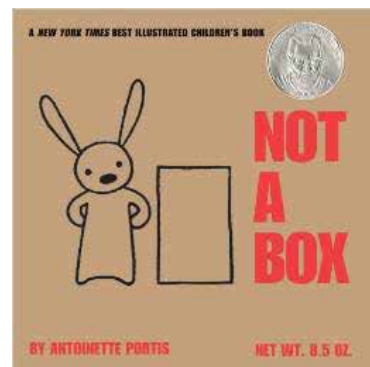
Skill

When your child guesses what will happen next, he or she is developing a hypothesis, as scientists do when they create experiments. This back-and-forth interaction 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.

Not A Box

By Antoinette Portis

A box is just a box, or is it? There are no limits to what a box can be in a rabbit’s imagination in this creative book.



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.**