

Skill-Building Book Tips

7 Essential Life Skills

Jump into *Same, Same But Different* 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

Ask your child:

- “What are the ways that Kailash and Elliot are the same?”
- “Look for clues in the pictures and in their letters to each other.”

Skill

When your child looks for similarities, he's Making Connections; that is, creating categories of things that are alike. Some of these are talked about in the story, but you must search for others. For example, there's a bird on top of the school buses. To find these less obvious similarities, your child will have to pay careful attention to details.

Tip

Ask your child:

- “What are the ways that Elliot and Kailash are different?”
- “What do you think it would be like to live in India, compared with where you live?”

Skill

In looking for differences, your child is paying attention to details. For example, Elliot wears the same striped shirt in all of the pictures, but Kailash wears different shirts. Your child is remembering what is alike and different and thinking flexibly. All of these call on **Executive Function** skills.

Tip

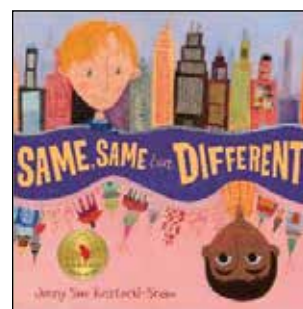
Ask your child:

- “Why do think these boys become best friends, even though they have never met?”
- “Think about your own friends. In what ways are you ‘same, same, but different?’ How do you think these similarities and differences affect your friendship?”

Same, Same But Different

By Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw

Elliot from the United States and Kailash from India become pen pals and explore their similarities and differences through imaginative drawings and letters to each other.



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Skill

Making Connections between letters, landscapes, sounds and words helps your child understand more about his language. In fact, researchers have recently found that the world's written languages are all based on the same patterns of lines and angles, and are based on these patterns in landscapes. This is fascinating because, on the surface, it seems so implausible—for instance, written languages in different parts of the world look so different—but it is true. When you ask your child to **see things in different ways**, you are promoting **Executive Function** skills.

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.**

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MIND in the Making
The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs