

Skill-Building Book Tips

7 Essential Life Skills

Jump into *Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes* 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

While you read this book, you can interact with your child by asking:

- “Where is the baby who was born far away?”

Point to the baby in the book, then ask: “Where is my baby?” and point to your child. As your child grows, encourage her to point, too.

Skill

Making Connections includes figuring out **what's the same and what's different**, which calls on Executive Function skills. 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.

Tip

Count or touch your child's toes and fingers. Point to the book and then to your child.

Skill

Making Connections is promoted by **repetition and interaction.**

Tip

This book is ideal to use in your everyday interactions with your child.

You can give your child three little kisses on the nose, just like in the book. When you are dressing him or her, you can say:

- “I see ten little fingers and ten little toes.”

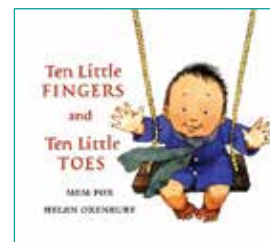
Skill

Making Connections among words, pictures and objects promotes this skill.

Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes

By Mem Fox and Helen Oxenbury

In this sweet book, young children meet a cast of smiling, round-cheeked babies from around the world as they're told about a universal trait that (almost) all babies have in common. Bouncy rhymes and repetition make this a wonderful read-aloud for babies and toddlers.



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.**