

# Skill-Building Book Tips

## 7 Essential Life Skills

Jump into *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* 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

You can point to the moon and to the egg as you read the first page.

### Skill

Studies show that children are more likely to learn words when you point to an object as you say its name. Making Connections among words, pictures and objects promotes this **Executive Function** skill.

### Tip

Count the number of pieces of fruit the hungry caterpillar eats each day, pointing to the fruit and counting on your fingers while you read. Invite your older child to point and count with you. This helps make connections among numbers, days and counting.

### Skill

Making Connections involves **learning what symbols represent.**

### Tip

Ask your older child to think about the difference between the foods the caterpillar ate from Monday through Friday (all plain fruit) and on Saturday (mostly cooked food).

### Skill

Making Connections involves **putting things into categories.**

### Tip

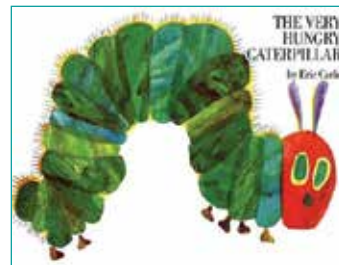
Ask your child:

- “Have you ever had a stomachache after eating lots of food?”

Share a time when you had a stomachache, too.

### The Very Hungry Caterpillar By Eric Carle

This must-read book tells the story of one caterpillar’s metamorphosis as he eats many foods, spins a cocoon and emerges as a butterfly. It’s perfect for practicing counting and colors, and it’s available in a bilingual board book edition.



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### ■ Skill

Have this conversation in a way that promotes “**Take-Turns Talk**”—you or your child does or says something and the other responds, back and forth like a game of ball. Use this book to watch your child’s response to the words and pictures, and build on what your child says.

Making Connections involves seeing the **similarities and differences between your own experiences and the experiences of others**. Promote this kind of thinking by asking questions.

### ■ Tip

At the end of the book, the caterpillar turns into a beautiful butterfly. Have a discussion with your child about how things change when they grow. Name examples from her everyday life. If your child is interested in finding out more, explore pictures of caterpillars and butterflies in books or on the Internet.

### ■ Skill

When you help children **look up information**, you’re helping them deepen and extend their knowledge.

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](http://www.fbmarketplace.org).**