

Skill-Building Book Tips

7 Essential Life Skills

Read *Button Up!* in a way that highlights Perspective Taking, a Life Skill that promotes Executive Functions. This Life Skill goes far beyond empathy. It involves **figuring out what others think and feel** and forms the basis for children's understanding of the intentions of their parents, teachers and friends. Children who can take the perspectives of others are also much less likely to get involved in conflicts.

Tip

Talk with your child about how it would feel if something he or she wore came to life:

- “What would it feel like if your hat or t-shirt or pajamas talked?”

Skill

You are promoting Perspective Taking when you help your child think about how it might feel if his clothes could talk. This back-and-forth conversation between you and your child 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

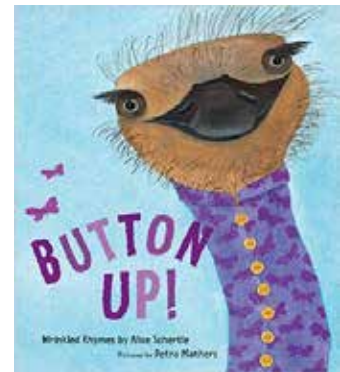
Use the poems in this book to pretend that familiar objects have thoughts and feelings. Ask your child what his shoes or swimsuit might say. Turn this into a back-and-forth conversation between your child's clothes and your child.

Skill

Perspective Taking includes **understanding how others think and feel, even pretending about everyday objects.** When your child pretends, he or she has to put his or her own feelings aside, which calls on **Executive Function** skills.

Button UP! By Alice Schertle

In *Button Up!*, the clothes we wear come to life and express themselves in clever verse.



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.**