

Skill-Building Book Tips

7 Essential Life Skills

Explore *Whoever You Are* 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

Ask children questions about the ways people in the book differ from their own experiences. For example, you can say:

- “What are their clothes like? How are they different from the clothes you wear?”
- “What are their homes like? How are they different from your home?”
- “What else do you see that is different?”

Skill

Perspective Taking is **being able to understand what others think and feel**. By talking about the differences your child sees in the book, you're helping him learn about Perspective Taking because he's learning about the perspectives and experiences of others. This back-and-forth conversation you have about this book 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

Point out the people in the book that might look differently or live differently, but draw attention to how we are all alike. For example, you can say:

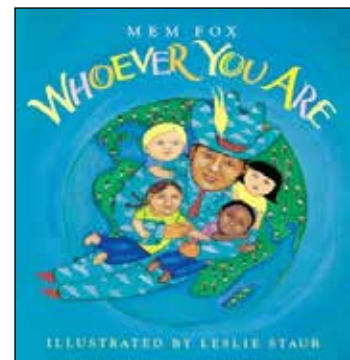
- “He cries. I cry. You cry. We all cry sometimes.”
- “Even if we look and live differently from others, we all laugh.”

Skill

When you talk about the ways that the children in the book are just like your child, you're helping him form a basis of understanding the deeper similarities among people. By helping him gain these understandings, you are promoting Perspective Taking and your child's Executive Function skills.

Whoever You Are By Mem Fox

Whoever You Are shares the ways that children all over the world differ and yet are the same.



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**.