

# Skill-Building Book Tips

## 7 Essential Life Skills

Discover *Fish is Fish* 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

The minnow offers a great illustration of how others have different perspectives when he imagines the frog's descriptions of birds, cows and people as fish-like creatures. Explore this concept with your child by asking:

- "Have you ever had an idea about something before you saw it? What were your ideas?"
- "How was the real thing different or the same as your ideas?"

### Skill

Perspective Taking involves learning that others may have different knowledge than you do. To learn this, you have to put aside what you know and take the perspectives of others, which calls on Executive Function skills.

### Tip

A central concept of *Fish is Fish* is that we sometimes want what other people have. The minnow wanted to go on land like the frog, but when he does, he discovers he can't breathe there. When the minnow returns to the water, he discovers that his world "was certainly the most beautiful of all worlds."

Ask your child if he has ever had similar experiences.

### Skill

By talking about wanting what others have, you will help children learn about the perspectives of others.

### Tip

Ask your child:

- "Why couldn't the fish breathe on land?"
- "Are there things you can do that others can't? How does that make you feel?"

### Skill

Perspective Taking includes learning that others can do things that you can't.

### **Fish is Fish**

#### **By Leo Lionni**

When Fish's best friend, Tadpole, sprouts legs, ventures onto land and comes back with glorious descriptions, Fish yearns to see for himself. Quickly, he discovers that "frog is frog and fish is fish," and as a fish, the pond is the best place for him.



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).**