

Skill-Building Book Tips

7 Essential Life Skills

Grab your blankie and explore *Owen* in a way that highlights Taking on Challenges, a Life Skill that promotes Executive Functions. Life is full of stresses and challenges. Children who are willing to **take on challenges** (instead of avoiding them or simply coping with them) do better in school and in life.

Tip

Ask your child how Owen feels when his family (pushed by the nosy neighbor) tries to get him to give up his beloved comfort blanket, Fuzzy.

Skill

Taking on Challenges elicits many different emotions and provides opportunities to learn how to master them.

Tip

Owen comes up with his own strategies for coping with the neighbor's advice: he hides his blanket at night to escape from the Blanket Fairy and he rubs his blanket in the sand-box and dirt to get rid of the vinegar smell. Ask your child:

- “What other ideas do you have about how Owen might have dealt with other people's efforts to get him to give up his blanket?”

Skill

Problem solving calls on **Executive Function** skills.

Tip

Ask your child how she feels about his mother's solution of turning his blanket into handkerchiefs. What other ideas does your child have for dealing with this issue? Sometimes people offer advice that's not so good (as the neighbor Mrs. Tweezers does). Ask your child to recall a time when someone suggested a solution that wasn't a good idea.

Skill

Often in Taking on Challenges, others can be helpful in suggesting solutions.

Tip

Share a time with your child when you did something that was challenging. Talk about what happened, how it felt and what you did.

Skill

Children learn Taking on Challenges from **examples and role models**.

Owen

By Kevin Henkes

Owen loves his blankie. He loves it outside or inside, during the day and the night. How will Owen go to school without his blankie? Kevin Henkes' lovable mouse illustrations and trademark tender humor are plentiful in this picture book about gaining independence one step at a time.



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