TIP:
Act out what Ben is doing in the book. Take turns making faces and copying Ben’s gestures with your child.

SKILL:
When you act out the ways Ben is communicating, you are helping your child make connections between words and actions. This will help your child learn new words and understand how others communicate.

TIP:
Ask your child what Penguin is doing:

- “Why is Penguin not responding at first? Do you think Ben could have done anything to get Penguin to respond? Why or why not?”

SKILL:
The skill of Communicating involves helping your child learn what he or she wants to communicate and how to communicate so others will understand. When you talk about why Penguin doesn’t respond to Ben at first, it helps your child think about what Penguin is trying to tell Ben by turning away. Your child has to put aside what he or she thinks to truly understand the perspective of Penguin, which calls on Executive Function skills. Giving your child insight into the perspectives of Penguin and of Ben helps your child learn to communicate more effectively.

TIP:
Ben becomes upset because Penguin is not responding. You can share a time when you or your child was upset because someone was not listening or responding. Talk about why there was a breakdown in communication.

SKILL:
By sharing stories, you are helping your child make the book relevant in his or her own life. Use what is called “Take-Turns Talk” in this conversation, where, like a game of ball, you go back and forth, building on and extending what your child says and does. This conversation can help your child think about when communicating works and doesn’t work.
TIP:

At the end of the book, Ben and Penguin are communicating with each other: “Penguin said “everything.” Ask your child to talk about what Penguin finally has to say to Ben.

SKILL:

Communicating includes many different ways of connecting with others. By talking with your child about different ways of communicating (through words, behavior, pictures, etc.), you are helping him or her have a deeper understanding of this skill.