PRESCHOOLERS
SEVEN ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILLS
Skill Building Book Tips

TIP:
You can ask questions that will help your child make predictions or come up with theories to predict what causes different things to happen. For example, you can ask:

- “What do you think it means when the egg jumps?”
- “What do you think will happen if the baby bird leaves the nest without his mother?”

SKILL:
Critical Thinking promotes cause and effect thinking, which calls on Executive Function skills.

TIP:
As the baby bird encounters each animal and object, you can ask your child if he or she thinks it is the baby bird’s mother, and ask why or why not.

SKILL:
The baby bird uses problem solving—an aspect of Critical Thinking—to try to find his mother, but because he has just hatched, he doesn’t have very much prior knowledge and has to rely on information from the other animals and objects.

TIP:
Ask children to share an experience of losing something and trying to find it. Once they tell their story, ask them what clues they used. What worked for them in finding the lost person or object?

SKILL:
Helping children analyze their problem-solving process and how well it worked helps them become more adept at Critical Thinking.

These tips sheets were developed by Mind in the Making, in collaboration with First Book. Mind in the Making and Vroom are programs of the Bezos Family Foundation. 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.

For more ways to help your child learn and develop, visit mindinthemaking.org and vroom.org

Are You My Mother?
By P.D. Eastman
After he falls from his nest, a confused baby bird asks everyone he meets (a dog, a plow, an airplane and more) if they’re his mother until (hooray!) he finds her. This charming story of identity and belonging is also available in a bilingual edition.