

# MIND in the Making

The Seven Essential Skills Every Child Needs

## Life Skill That Promotes Executive Function (EF): Making Connections

Making Connections is at the heart of learning—**figuring out what’s the same and what’s different, and sorting these things into categories. Making unusual connections is at the core of creativity.** In a world where people can Google for information, it is the people who can see connections who are able to go beyond knowing information to **using this information well.**

### Suggestions for Promoting Making Connections for Ages 6-8

#### TIP:

Help your child look for clues to find the one picture that is different: is it a different color, a different shape or a picture that is reversed? The answers are in the back—but don’t look too quickly. Struggling a little makes this game more fun and a deeper learning experience.

#### SKILL:

*I Am Different! Can You Find Me?* offers many different opportunities to **make connections**. Making Connections involves **finding out what is different and what is the same** in each of the pictures, which calls on **Executive Function** skills.

#### TIP:

On each page, read the question: “Can you find me?” in English or in your native language. Then read it in the language on the page.

#### SKILL:

Your child is learning to **make connections** between words in his or her native language and the other languages in the book.

#### TIP:

Ask your child:

- “Why do you think that there are pictures of stars on the page when the language is Hebrew?”

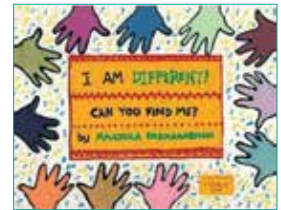
#### SKILL:

Making Connections includes **learning what symbols represent.**

## I Am Different! Can You Find Me

By Manjula Padmanabhan

This inventive, interactive book is a global celebration of differences! Children learn to say “Can you find me?” in 16 different languages as they hunt for the object in each picture that is different from the others.



High-quality books and educational resources from First Book supporting research-based Life Skills from *Mind in the Making* by Ellen Galinsky



Find more books and materials on the First Book Marketplace, a resource available exclusively to educators and programs serving children in need. [www.fbmarketplace.org](http://www.fbmarketplace.org).

You will notice that these tips promote two child development principles: **Serve and Return** and **Executive Function** skills.

**Serve and Return**, like a game of ball, involves a back and forth conversation between you and your child where you listen, then build on and extend what your child says or does to promote learning.

**Executive Function** skills are skills you use to manage your attention, your feelings, your thoughts and your behavior to reach your goals.

They include being able to pay attention, remember information, think flexibly and exercise self control.

Find more about *Mind in the Making* at [www.mindinthemaking.org](http://www.mindinthemaking.org).

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#### TIP:

Explain that many words that have become part of the English language originate from activities or objects that are important in other countries, such as the words “hula” or “ukulele” in Hawaiian.



#### SKILL:

The book helps children **make connections** between words from different languages that are used in English.



#### TIP:

Find a map so you can show children where each of the countries mentioned is located. At the back of the book, there are also a few gestures from sign language that your child might like to learn.



#### SKILL:

Making Connections between **your own and others’ experiences can provide a powerful learning opportunity.**

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