

MIND in the Making

The Seven Essential Life 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 talk about what the weather is like in each community in this book.

SKILL:

On the Same Day in March offers many different opportunities to make connections. Making Connections can **involve finding out what is different and what is the same** in the weather in different parts of the world, which call on **Executive Function** skills.

TIP:

Ask your child to compare “the sun’s sly smile” in Paris with the sunlight sparkling on the market in Dakar and the sunlight dazzling on the sand in Barbados. Have him or her look at and discuss the sun, the clouds, the rain and the wind in various parts of the world on the same day.

SKILL:

On each page, there are words and pictures that describe the weather. Making Connections involves helping children figure out what is going on in these pictures.

TIP:

Ask children to connect their own experiences to some of these descriptions, such as a snow fort in Alberta, Canada that has melted into a “dragon-shaped patch in someone’s backyard.” Ask them to describe what melting snow or fog looks like.

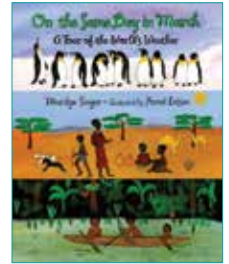
SKILL:

The language in this book uses poetic images to describe the weather, which exemplify beautiful ways of Making Connections.

On the Same Day in March

By Marilyn Singer

Journey to the Arctic, India, Kenya and beyond with this rich picture book. It helps children see that the weather in one part of the world might be very different from that in another part of the world—even on the same day. Great for comparing and contrasting!



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.

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.

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

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Suggestions for Promoting Making Connections for Ages 6-8

TIP:

Ask your child to think of images that describe the weather he or she is experiencing now—what does it remind your child of?

SKILL:

By having this conversation, you will help children **make connections.**

TIP:

Use the map to trace the weather across the world. A “Note from the Author” in the back of the book provides further information.

SKILL:

Making Connections between the map and the descriptions can provide a powerful learning opportunity.

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