

SEVEN ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILLS

Skill Building Book Tips

You can read *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* in a way that highlights Critical Thinking, a Life Skill that promotes Executive Functions. This Life Skill is the ongoing search for **valid and reliable knowledge to guide beliefs, decisions and actions.**

**TIP:**

Have your child predict what will happen each time the mouse asks for something new.

**SKILL:**

Critical Thinking centers on being **curious** and seeking to understand **cause and effect**, both of which call on **Executive Function** skills.

**TIP:**

The boy in the story has to figure out how to find what the mouse needs and how to clean up the mess this search is causing.

Ask your child:

- “What would you do if you were this child?”

**SKILL:**

Even though this book is imaginary, it promotes **problem solving**, which is key to Critical Thinking.

**TIP:**

Once your child knows the story, you can ask what comes next when you re-read the book. Your child will use his or her memory to recall the order and the items the mouse requests, while having fun! And adults will enjoy this story where the energetic and enthusiastic mouse wears out the child (just like energetic and enthusiastic children can wear out adults).

**SKILL:**

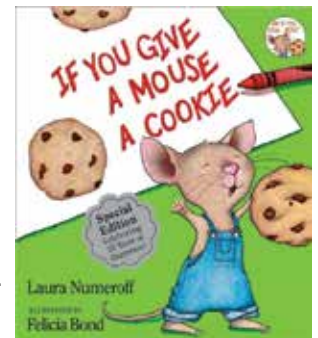
Critical Thinking includes being able to **remember previous experiences and information and apply this knowledge to the present.**

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie

By Laura Numeroff

This wildly popular lesson in cause and effect stars a very bossy mouse! First he wants a cookie, then some milk, next a straw—what’s a boy to do?? The giggle-worthy story eventually comes

full circle, making kids say, “Read it again!”.



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.

