

SEVEN ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILLS

Skill Building Book Tips

You can read *The Runaway Bunny* 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:

The Runaway Bunny can be read on many different levels. With a young child, you can tell the story in your own words, pointing out how the Mother Rabbit has to keep problem solving—figuring out ways to find her runaway bunny.



SKILL:

We use Critical Thinking in **problem solving**, which calls on **Executive Function** skills.



TIP:

You can ask questions, such as about how much the Mother Rabbit cares and about imagination:

- “Why do you think the Mother Rabbit will do anything to find her bunny?”
- “Can rabbits really fly? How do you know?”



SKILL:

The back and forth conversation you have with your child is what researchers call “**Take-Turns Talk.**” Like a game of ball, one of you says or does something and the other responds. The importance of these everyday interactions to brain-building is a key finding from child development research.

With older children, Critical Thinking can be promoted by **encouraging them to be curious and think about what they think and believe.** You can ask questions that promote Critical Thinking about the rabbit’s decisions and actions.



TIP:

Ask your child to find the bunny in all of the color pictures, such as in the flowers. For those children who know the author Margaret Wise Brown’s book, *Goodnight Moon*, ask if they recognize the cow jumping over the moon drawing in the room with the fireplace.



SKILL:

Critical Thinking involves being **observant.**

The Runaway Bunny

By Margaret Wise Brown

In this reassuring classic, a loving mother tells her little bunny that no matter where he goes, she will always find him again. Children relate to the little bunny’s desire for independence and enjoy the story’s pattern of cause and effect.



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