

Skill-Building Book Tips

7 Essential Life Skills

Read *It Looked Like Spilt Milk* in a way that highlights Making Connections, a Life Skill that promotes Executive Functions. This Life Skill 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’s the people who can see connections who are able to go beyond knowing information to **using this information well.**

Tip

As you read *It Looked Like Spilt Milk*, point to the pictures and ask your child to name the picture:

- “What’s that? Is it a squirrel?”

Skill

When you ask your child to think about what he or she sees, you are helping **build connections between words and objects.** These connections are important in understanding what the world looks like—a foundation for learning in school and in life.

Tip

Ask your child:

- “What else could this picture be? I think it could also be a piece of a puzzle. What else do you think it could be?”

Skill

When you and your child imagine what else the white images could be, you’re helping your child learn to make unusual connections, which is the basis of creativity. This back-and-forth interaction 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.

Tip

You can talk about what other shapes around you look like. This can include shadows, clouds or anything else.

Skill

When you offer your child the chance to see things in different ways, you’re helping your child **sort and classify information as well as to think flexibly, both important aspects of Executive Functions.**

It Looked Like Spilt Milk By Charles G. Shaw

It Looked Like Spilt Milk is a book full of white images against a royal blue background that look like spilt milk, a bird or a tree, but aren’t any of these objects. This book will keep children guessing and then coming up with their own creative games.



These tips sheets were developed by *Mind in the Making*, in collaboration with First Book. 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.**