

# SEVEN ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILLS

## Skill Building Book Tips

You can read *Baby Talk* in a way that highlights Communicating, a Life Skill that promotes Executive Functions. This Life Skill is much more than understanding language, speaking, reading and writing. It is the skill of **determining what you want to communicate** and **realizing how our communications will be**.



### TIP:

When the book says: “Where are baby’s toes?” you can point to your baby’s toes, as well as to the babies’ toes in the pictures on the pages.



### SKILL:

Communicating centers on conversations—with sounds, with words, with movements and with facial expressions. This book provides an ideal opportunity to have many conversations with your baby.

The best conversations involve what researchers call “**Take-Turns Talk**”—you or your child does something and the other responds, back and forth like a game of ball. Use this book to watch your child’s response to the words and pictures and build on what your child says (with sounds, with looks, with movements) and extend it. If your baby says, “Aaahhh,” you can say, “Aaahhh” back. This is a vitally important brain-building activity.



### TIP:

While you read this book with your child, you can follow the actions (“so big” and “patty-cake,” for example).



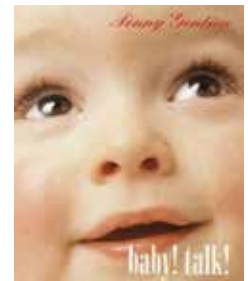
### SKILL:

Using the words and repeating the actions on the pages help children connect words to real experience and promote the skill of Communicating. It is a step toward determining what you want to say, an **Executive Function** skill.

## Baby Talk

### By Penny Gentieu

A diverse cast of babies appears on each photo-filled page of this board book. Very young children will love imitating the babies’ actions, as they clap hands, play peek-a-boo and more, while practicing favorite baby expressions like “Uh-oh!”



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](http://www.fbmarketplace.org).

