

# SEVEN ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILLS

## Skill Building Book Tips

You can read *Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes* 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 is the people who can see connections who are able to go beyond knowing information to **using this information well.**



### TIP:

While you read this book, you can interact with your child by asking:

- “Where is the baby who was born far away?”

Point to the baby in the book, and then ask: “Where is my baby?” and point to your child. As your child grows, encourage him or her to point, too.



### SKILL:

Making Connections includes figuring out **what's the same and what's different**, which calls on Executive Function skills. 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 count or touch your child's toes and fingers. Point to the book and then to your child.



### SKILL:

Making Connections is promoted by **repetition and interaction.**



### TIP:

This book is an ideal one to use in your everyday interactions with your child.

You can give your child three little kisses on the nose, just like in the book. When you are dressing him or her, you can say:

- “I see ten little fingers and ten little toes.”



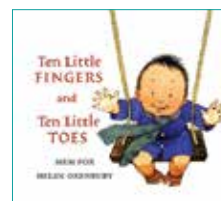
### SKILL:

Making Connections among words, pictures and objects promotes this skill.

## Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes

By Mem Fox and Helen Oxenbury

In this sweet book, young children meet a cast of smiling, round-cheeked babies from around the world as they're told about a universal trait that (almost) all babies have in common. Bouncy rhymes and repetition make this a wonderful read-aloud for babies and toddlers.



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).

