

# Skill-Building Book Tips

## 7 Essential Life Skills

Explore *Corduroy* in a way that highlights Perspective Taking, a Life Skill that promotes Executive Functions. This Life Skill goes far beyond empathy. It involves **figuring out what others think and feel** and forms the basis for children's understanding of the intentions of their parents, teachers and friends. Children who can take the perspectives of others are also much less likely to get involved in conflicts.

### Tip

Talk about how Corduroy might be feeling in different parts of the story. For example, ask:

- “How do you think Corduroy felt when the mother and daughter walked away from him?”
- “How do you think Corduroy felt when he found himself on stairs that moved?”

### Skill

Perspective Taking is promoted by **talking about the feelings and thoughts of others**. This back-and-forth interaction you and your child have 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.

### Corduroy

By Don Freeman

*Corduroy* is a classic story about a bear with a missing button that waits on the shelf in a department store for someone to buy him, but no one comes! Finally, a girl comes along with her own money and takes him home.



### Tip

You can role-play with your child:

- “Let’s pretend you are the child who wanted to buy Corduroy, but whose mother said, ‘I’ve spent too much already.’”

Or, “Let’s pretend you are the guard who hears a strange noise. What do you suppose they were thinking and feeling? What did they do in the story? What else might they have done?”

### Skill

Enhance your child’s understanding of others’ thoughts and feelings by **pretending** to be that person. When your child pretends, she has to put her own feelings aside, which calls on **Executive Function** skills.

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