You will notice that these tips promote two child development principles: **Serve and Return** and **Executive Function** skills.

**Serve and Return**, like game of ball, involves a back and forth conversation between you and your child where you listen, then build on and extend what your child says or does to promote learning.

**Executive Function** skills you use to manage your attention, your feelings, your thoughts and your behavior to reach your goals. They include being able to pay attention, remember information, think flexibly and exercise self control.

**Horton Hears a Who!**

Horton the elephant may be large, but he cares deeply about those who are not—even organisms that are too small to see. In this Dr. Seuss classic, Horton struggles to protect his tiny friends from harm. After all, “a person’s a person, no matter how small.”

**Suggestions for Promoting Taking on Challenges**

**TIP:**
Ask your child:
- “How does Horton feel when no one believes that there are small persons on a speck of dust? How does he cope with his feelings?”

**SKILL:**
Taking on Challenges elicits many different emotions and presents opportunities for children to learn to manage them.

**TIP:**
Ask your child:
- “What does Horton do to try to save Who-ville? How does he deal with the taunting and actions of others who endanger Who-ville; the exhausting journey in following the black-bottomed bird that ‘tattered his toenails and battered his bones;’ the search in the patch of clovers ‘a hundred miles wide;’ and his own capture? What keeps him going?”

Ask your child what would keep him or her going if your child was in Horton’s place.

**SKILL:**
Taking on Challenges involves finding ways to deal with challenging situations.

**TIP:**
Ask the children if they find the refrain in this book (“A person’s a person, no matter how small”) inspiring? Can they think of another time when “special words” helped them or others respond to challenge? What were those words?

**SKILL:**
Having a goal is important to Taking on Challenges. **Executive Function** skills are driven by goals. You can talk with your child about how important it is to Horton to save Who-ville.

High-quality books and educational resources from First Book supporting research-based Life Skills from **Mind in the Making** by Ellen Galinsky

You will notice that these tips promote two child development principles: **Serve and Return** and **Executive Function** skills.

**Serve and Return**, like game of ball, involves a back and forth conversation between you and your child where you listen, then build on and extend what your child says or does to promote learning.

**Executive Function** skills are skills you use to manage your attention, your feelings, your thoughts and your behavior to reach your goals. They include being able to pay attention, remember information, think flexibly and exercise self control.

Find more about Families and Work Institute’s *Mind in the Making* at [www.mindinthemaking.org](http://www.mindinthemaking.org).