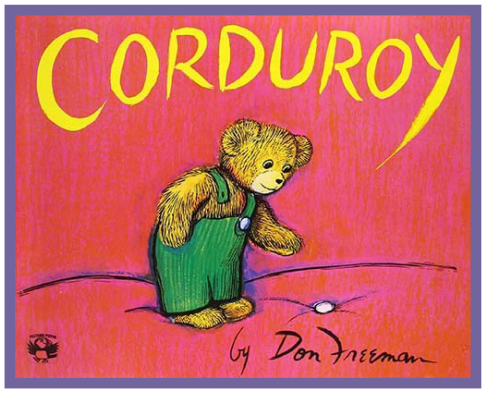
SUNCOAST
The Campaign for GRADE-LEVEL READING

SUNCOAST CAMPAIGN FOR GRADE-LEVEL READING

PRE-K



Corduroy

By Don Freeman

ACTIVITY: SPELL YOUR NAME IN BUTTONS!

SUPPLIES:

- Paper
- Pencil
- Buttons or pictures of buttons
- Scissors
- Glue

DIRECTIONS:

1. Write your name or the first initial of your name with big letters on the piece of paper.
2. Trace the first letter of your name with glue.
3. Place buttons or cut out pictures of buttons on the glue.
4. Repeat with the following letters.
5. Now you have artwork of your name!

Take a pic!

Take a photo of your button artwork and send it along with your name to: connect@gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net

MIND in the Making

The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs

Life Skill That Promotes Executive Function (EF): Perspective Taking

Perspective Taking 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.

Suggestions for Promoting Perspective Taking for Ages 3-5

Tip:

You can talk about how Corduroy might be feeling in different parts of the story. For example, you can say:

- "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 "**serve and return**." Like a game of ball, one of you says or does something (serves) and the other responds (returns). The importance of these everyday interactions to brain building is a key finding from child development research.

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?"

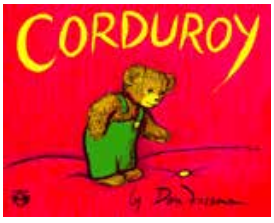
Skill:

You can enhance your child's understanding of others' thoughts and feelings by **pretending** to be that person. When your child pretends, he or she has to put his or her own feelings aside, which calls on **Executive Function** skills.

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.



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

Find more books and materials on the First Book Marketplace, a resource available exclusively to educators and programs serving children in need. www.fbmarketplace.org.

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

Serve and Return, like a 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 *Mind in the Making* at **www.mindinthemaking.org**.