



CONQUERING KINDERGARTEN STORYTIME SIDEKICK

Books are a great way to teach reading and social-emotional learning (SEL) skills.

Here is how you can support children as you read books together:

1. Ask open-ended questions about the SEL skill in the book.
2. Respond to children’s answers and build on them to start a conversation.
3. Connect the SEL skill in the book to real experiences in children’s lives.

Try this strategy with the story *What if Everybody Did That?* In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill *Accepts Responsibility for Choices and Actions*, as they hear about a boy who learns the impact of his decisions. After reading the story, follow the steps below.

GUIDE	 ASK A QUESTION	 RESPOND AND EXTEND	 CONNECT TO EXPERIENCE
	EXAMPLE	<p>You say:</p> <p><i>Why was it a bad idea for the boy to throw his food to the bears in the zoo?</i></p>	<p>Child says:</p> <p><i>The bears might get sick.</i></p> <p>You say:</p> <p><i>That’s right, the bears could get sick because they ate something they weren’t supposed to.</i></p>



Want more examples of this strategy?

	★ 1 ASK A QUESTION	★ 2 RESPOND AND EXTEND	★ 3 CONNECT TO EXPERIENCE
EXAMPLE 1	You say: <i>The boy learned that choices have <u>consequences</u> or results. What was an action the boy took that led to a bad result?</i>	Child says: <i>He threw his trash out the window.</i> You say: <i>Yes, I remember that. He threw the trash out the window instead of putting it in a trash can.</i>	You say: <i>Do you remember a time when you didn't want to clean up after yourself? What do you think would happen if everyone did that?</i>
EXAMPLE 2	You say: <i>Can you remember something the boy did in the book that led to a good result?</i>	Child says: <i>He gave his mom a hug.</i> You say: <i>Yes, he hugged his mom and I bet that made her feel so happy!</i>	You say: <i>What is something that you do that has a good impact on other people?</i>



What else can you do to teach the skill in this book?

Model Responsibility. Show children that it's okay to make mistakes, as long as you take responsibility for them. During daily routines, talk through your mistakes out loud. Take responsibility for them and talk through solutions so children can hear you. For example, if you forgot to do something, you could say, "I forgot to read a story to you today. I'm sorry that I forgot. I will write myself a note so I don't forget tomorrow." Showing children that you make mistakes too helps them feel comfortable admitting they were wrong.

Want to learn more about this strategy?

Research shows that reading and talking with children about books helps them build both reading and SEL skills. To get the most out of each book, read it again to support children's understanding.

It is also helpful to make real-time connections between children's experiences and the books they know. Point out when you see something in your real life that reminds you of a book.

Conquering Kindergarten aims to help families and teachers support children's development of 14 key SEL skills through evidence-based tools. For more tips, book recommendations, and reading guides, **visit CKPhilly.org**.



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