

# 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 *Jamaica’s Find*. In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill *Accept Responsibility for Choices and Actions*, as they hear about a young girl who makes a mistake and then tries to fix it. After reading the story, follow the steps below.

| GUIDE |  <b>ASK A QUESTION</b> |  <b>RESPOND AND EXTEND</b> |  <b>CONNECT TO EXPERIENCE</b>  |
|-------|---|---|---|
|       | EXAMPLE   | <p><b>You say:</b></p> <p><i>What was the mistake Jamaica made in the story?</i></p>                          | <p><b>Child says:</b></p> <p><i>She took the stuffed dog.</i></p> <p><b>You say:</b></p> <p><i>Yes, she made a mistake by taking the dog, which didn't belong to her.</i></p> |



## Want more examples of this strategy?

|                  | <b>1 ASK A QUESTION</b>   | <b>2 RESPOND AND EXTEND</b>   | <b>3 CONNECT TO EXPERIENCE</b>   |
|------------------|---|---|--|
| <b>EXAMPLE 1</b> | <b>You say:</b> <i>How do you think Jamaica felt when she was back at her house with the stuffed dog?</i> | <b>Child says:</b> <i>Bad.</i><br><b>You say:</b> <i>I think so too. She felt bad that she took someone else's stuffed animal.</i>                              | <b>You say:</b> <i>How do you feel when you make a mistake? What do you do to make yourself feel better?</i>                                       |
| <b>EXAMPLE 2</b> | <b>You say:</b> <i>How did Jamaica fix her mistake?</i>   | <b>Child says:</b> <i>She gave the dog back.</i><br><b>You say:</b> <i>Exactly! She brought the dog back to the park and returned it to the lost and found.</i> | <b>You say:</b> <i>When we make mistakes, we should try to fix them. Can you think of a time when you tried to fix a mistake? What did you do?</i> |



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

**Help Children Reflect.** When children break a rule, it is important that they understand what they did wrong, what the consequences are, and what they can do to fix the problem. Help them think through these things by asking them questions like, "How do you feel about the choice you made? What can you say to the person you hurt? Is there anything you can do to make it better?" Remember to try and stay calm and neutral when asking these questions so children don't feel ashamed or scared about their mistakes.

## 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](http://CKPhilly.org)**.



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