



# 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 *Words are Not for Hurting*. In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill *Accepts Responsibility for Choices and Actions*, as they learn that their actions affect others. After reading this story, follow the guide below.

GUIDE	 <b>1 ASK A QUESTION</b>	 <b>2 RESPOND AND EXTEND</b>	 <b>3 CONNECT TO EXPERIENCE</b>
	EXAMPLE	<p><b>You say:</b></p> <p><i>The book talked about different things you can say after you’ve used hurtful words. What is something you can say?</i></p>	<p><b>Child says:</b></p> <p><i>Sorry.</i></p> <p><b>You say:</b></p> <p><i>Exactly, you can <u>apologize</u> and say, “I’m sorry” if you’ve used words that hurt someone.</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>What did the book say you should do before you speak to make sure you use the right words?</i>	<b>Child says:</b> <i>Think!</i> <b>You say:</b> <i>Yes, if you think before you speak you can make sure you are using your words well.</i>	<b>You say:</b> <i>Can you remember a time when you thought about your words before you said something? What happened next?</i>
<b>EXAMPLE 2</b>	<b>You say:</b> <i>Who did the book say is in charge of the words that you use?</i>	<b>Child says:</b> <i>Me!</i> <b>You say:</b> <i>You're right! The book said you are in control of the words that you say and how you say them.</i>	<b>You say:</b> <i>How does it feel to be in charge of the words that you say and the way that you say them?</i>



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

**Be your own boss.** It can be hard for children to accept responsibility for what they say or do, especially when others hurt them first. Children must learn that they aren't in charge of what other people do or say to them. *They are in charge of how they react* to what others say and do. It is important for children to understand that they are always in control of their words and actions, even when they have big feelings that may feel out of control. Teach them that they are still responsible for themselves even when another child has made them angry or upset. Try to remember to remain calm and in control while you are helping children take accountability for their actions. It is important that you model control of your own feelings, words, and actions so children don't feel scared or ashamed about admitting their mistakes or accepting the consequences for what they've done.

## 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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