




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 the strategy above with the story *I Can Do It Myself*. In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill Can Work Independently, as they hear about Emily Pearl, who can do all types of things by herself. After reading the story, follow the steps below.

GUIDE	 1 ASK A QUESTION	 2 RESPOND AND EXTEND	 3 CONNECT TO EXPERIENCE
	EXAMPLE	<p>You say:</p> <p><i>What was something that Emily could do by herself?</i></p>	<p>Child says:</p> <p><i>Pour juice.</i></p> <p>You say:</p> <p><i>Yes, she poured juice for herself. She also knew how to make her bed.</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>Emily liked to be <u>independent</u>, which means she liked to do things on her own. How do you think it makes her feel to do things independently?</i>	Child says: <i>Good.</i> You say: <i>I agree. I think she feels good and feels proud of herself when she can be independent.</i>	You say: <i>Do you like to be independent like Emily? How do you feel when you can do something by yourself?</i>
EXAMPLE 2	You say: <i>What was something that Emily couldn't do by herself yet?</i>	Child says: <i>Go to sleep!</i> You say: <i>Exactly! She needed help to get tucked into bed and go to sleep.</i>	You say: <i>It's good to try things by ourselves, but it's also okay to ask for help! What is something that I can help you learn to do on your own? How can I help you?</i>



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

Make Time. To help children learn to do things on their own, it is important to build extra time for them into daily routines. If you are rushing to get things done, you may be tempted to do the task for the child, instead of letting them do it on their own. Think about your schedule and places where you can build in extra time to let children try things on their own.

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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