



# 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 *All By Myself*. In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill *Can Work Independently*, as they hear about all the things a child has learned to do on their own. After reading this story, follow the guide below.

<b>GUIDE</b>	 <b>1 ASK A QUESTION</b>	 <b>2 RESPOND AND EXTEND</b>	 <b>3 CONNECT TO EXPERIENCE</b>
	<b>EXAMPLE</b>	<p><b>You say:</b></p> <p><i>In the book, the boy did all sorts of things on his own. How do you think he felt doing things by himself?</i></p>	<p><b>Child says:</b></p> <p><i>He felt happy.</i></p> <p><b>You say:</b></p> <p><i>I think so too. Maybe he felt happy and proud because he could do things on his own.</i></p>



## Want more examples of this strategy?

	★ 1 ASK A QUESTION	★ 2 RESPOND AND EXTEND	★ 3 CONNECT TO EXPERIENCE
EXAMPLE 1	<b>You say:</b> <i>The boy does many things in this story <u>independently</u>, which means he does things without any help. Can you remember something he did by himself?</i>	<b>Child says:</b> <i>Brushed his teeth.</i> <b>You say:</b> <i>That's right! He was able to brush his teeth independently.</i>	<b>You say:</b> <i>What is something that you can do independently?</i>
EXAMPLE 2	<b>You say:</b> <i>Can you remember a time in the book when the boy did not do something on his own, like an activity where his mom or dad helped him?</i>	<b>Child says:</b> <i>At bed time!</i> <b>You say:</b> <i>Yes! His mom and dad helped him by tucking him into bed and reading him a story.</i>	<b>You say:</b> <i>We all need help sometimes. Can you think of something that you still need help doing? What is it?</i>



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

**Think Like Goldilocks.** In a children's story, a little girl named Goldilocks tastes three bowls of food. One is "too hot", one is "too cold", and one is "just right". For children to learn how to do things by themselves, they need tasks that they are able to work on alone. If the task is too easy, children may feel bored. If the task is too hard, they may get frustrated and give up. Try to find tasks that are not too easy or too hard. Tasks should be "just right" for children to do 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](http://CKPhilly.org)**.



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