



# 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 *I Can Do It Too!* In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill *Can Work Independently*, as they hear about a girl who is self-confident about what she can do on her own. 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> <i>How did the girl learn to get dressed?</i></p>	<p><b>Child says:</b> <i>From her sister.</i></p> <p><b>You say:</b> <i>That's right. Her sister taught her how to dress herself.</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>Remember when the girl learned to bake a cake. How do you think she learned to do it?</i>	<b>Child says:</b> <i>Her grandmother helped her!</i> <b>You say:</b> <i>Yes! Her grandmother was there to help her bake it.</i>	<b>You say:</b> <i>Sometimes we need help before we learn to do things on our own. Do you remember a time when you asked for help?</i>
EXAMPLE 2	<b>You say:</b> <i>How do you think the girl felt doing all of those things on her own?</i>	<b>Child says:</b> <i>Happy.</i> <b>You say:</b> <i>Yes, I bet she was happy and felt proud of herself.</i>	<b>You say:</b> <i>Can you remember a time when you learned to do something on your own?. How did you feel when you could do it by yourself?</i>



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

**Create an Independent Task List.** Knowing children’s abilities can help you identify which tasks they can do on their own and which tasks they still need your support to do. With children’s help, create a list with two columns naming tasks that they can do on their own and tasks you still need to help them with. Post this list somewhere they will see it. As children learn to do things on their own, you can move tasks from the first column to the second column so they can see their progress as they learn new skills!

## 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)**.



Follow us on Twitter  
**@PHLKindergarten**



Find us on Facebook  
**PHLKindergarten**



Follow us on Instagram  
**Conqueringkindergarten**