






# 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 *The Berenstain Bears and the Homework Hassle*. In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill *Completes Work on Time*, as they hear about what happens when Brother Bear falls behind on his homework. 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>Why were Mama and Papa Bear upset with Brother Bear?</i></p>	<p><b>Child says:</b></p> <p><i>He didn't do his homework.</i></p> <p><b>You say:</b></p> <p><i>That's right. They were upset because Brother Bear forgot to do his homework.</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 was something Brother Bear did instead of working on his homework?</i>	<b>Child says:</b> <i>He was watching TV.</i> <b>You say:</b> <i>That's right. He was watching TV and talking on the phone.</i>	<b>You say:</b> <i>Can you think of anything that distracts you from your homework? Is there anything that helps you get your homework done on time?</i>
<b>EXAMPLE 2</b>	<b>You say:</b> <i>What do you think happened at the end of the story?</i>	<b>Child says:</b> <i>Brother finally did his homework.</i> <b>You say:</b> <i>I agree! He worked on his homework, and I think he finished it before school started the next day!</i>	<b>You say:</b> <i>How do you feel when your homework is finished in time for school?</i>



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

**Beat the buzzer.** You can help children learn how to complete their work on time through games like “beat the buzzer.” Before asking children to start a task, challenge them to complete it before a timer goes off or by the end of a song. Give children more time to complete a task at first and then reduce the amount of time in the future as they get better at doing it.

## 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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