

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 *The Very Clumsy Click Beetle*. In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill Demonstrates Consistent Effort, as they hear about a beetle who learns how to land on his feet. After reading the story, follow the steps below.

GUIDE	 ASK A QUESTION	 RESPOND AND EXTEND	 CONNECT TO EXPERIENCE
	EXAMPLE	<p>You say:</p> <p><i>What was the click beetle trying to learn to do?</i></p>	<p>Child says:</p> <p><i>He wanted to be on his feet.</i></p> <p>You say:</p> <p><i>That’s right. He kept trying to learn to land on his feet.</i></p>



Want more examples of this strategy?

EXAMPLE 1

	1 ASK A QUESTION	2 RESPOND AND EXTEND	3 CONNECT TO EXPERIENCE
EXAMPLE 1	You say: <i>After the wise, old beetle showed him how, the young beetle thought it would be easy to land on his feet, but he still couldn't do it. How do you think that made him feel?</i>	Child says: <i>Mad!</i> You say: <i>I think so too. It probably made him feel <u>frustrated</u>, which is when you feel mad because you can't do something.</i>	You say: <i>Can you think of a time when you tried to do something but couldn't get it right away? Did it make you feel frustrated? What did you do next?</i>
EXAMPLE 2	You say: <i>How do you think the beetle felt when the turtle told him to keep trying?</i>	Child says: <i>He felt good.</i> You say: <i>Yes! He felt good, and I think he also felt <u>encouraged</u>, which is when someone gives you extra support.</i>	You say: <i>Can you think of a time when someone encouraged you to keep trying? How did it feel?</i>



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

Show children their progress. Remind children how far they have come in learning a skill by giving them examples. For example, if children are having trouble learning to tie their shoes, remind them how hard it was to learn to do something else (for example, learn the alphabet). Reminding children of their progress lets them see how working through challenges helps them grow.

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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