



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 *Whistle for Willie*. In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill Demonstrates Consistent Effort, as they hear about a boy named Peter learning how to whistle. 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>How do you think Peter felt when he tried to whistle but couldn't do it?</i></p>	<p>Child says:</p> <p><i>He felt sad.</i></p> <p>You say:</p> <p><i>I think so too. He felt sad and maybe he also felt mad because it was hard for him to learn to whistle.</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>How did Peter finally learn how to whistle?</i>	Child says: <i>He kept trying.</i> You say: <i>You're right. He kept trying and trying until he learned how to do it.</i>	You say: <i>Can you think of something that you are still learning to do?</i>
EXAMPLE 2	You say: <i>Peter learned about <u>persistence</u> in the story. Persistence is when you don't give up even when something is tough. How do you think he felt when he finally was able to whistle?</i>	Child says: <i>Happy.</i> You say: <i>Yes, I bet he felt happy and proud that he did not give up even though it was tough.</i>	You say: <i>Can you think of a time when you showed persistence?</i>



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

Show children how to talk through problems. Show children how you work through challenges to help them learn that trying matters. The next time you are struggling with something talk through it out loud. For example, while you are trying to spell a difficult word, you might say: "I'm getting so angry! I'm having trouble spelling this word. I'm going to take some deep breaths and try again." When you get it right, share how you feel: "I did it! I'm glad I didn't give up."

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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