

# 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 *Rita and Ralph’s Rotten Day*. In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill *Handles Conflict Appropriately*, as they hear a story about two friends who get into a fight and have to learn how to resolve it. After reading this story, follow the guide below.

GUIDE	 <b>ASK A QUESTION</b>	 <b>RESPOND AND EXTEND</b>	 <b>CONNECT TO EXPERIENCE</b>
	EXAMPLE	<p><b>You say:</b></p> <p><i>What started the fight between Ralph and Rita at the beginning of the book?</i></p>	<p><b>Child says:</b></p> <p><i>Rita got hurt.</i></p> <p><b>You say:</b></p> <p><i>Yes! Ralph accidentally hit Rita with a stick and she got hurt. This led to them getting into a fight.</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>How did Rita and Ralph feel when they were fighting with each other?</i>	<b>Child says:</b> <i>Mad!</i> <b>You say:</b> <i>I think so too. They both felt mad at each other and maybe they both felt sad that they were in a fight.</i>	<b>You say:</b> <i>Can you think of a time when you had a fight with a friend? How did you feel?</i>
<b>EXAMPLE 2</b>	<b>You say:</b> <i>How did Ralph and Rita fix the problem and go back to being friends again?</i>	<b>Child says:</b> <i>They said sorry!</i> <b>You say:</b> <i>Yes! They both realized that they did something wrong and apologized to each other.</i>	<b>You say:</b> <i>Can you think of a time when you had to say sorry to a friend to solve a problem? How did you feel after you apologized?</i>



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

### Teach Children to Use Their W.I.T.S. When Handling Conflict.

**Walk Away:** Tell children to remove themselves from minor conflicts.

**Ignore:** If children cannot walk away from a problem, they can also choose to ignore it.

**Talk it Out:** Tell children to let the other person know what is bothering them.

**Seek help:** More difficult problems may require an adult to step in. Tell children to seek the help of an adult in charge if the other strategies don't work.

## 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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