



# 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 *Talk and Work it Out*. In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill *Handles Conflict Appropriately*, as they learn about how to talk through problems with others. 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>In the book, the boy and girl both wanted to use the ball. What was one idea they thought of to solve the problem?</i></p>	<p><b>Child says:</b></p> <p><i>They could take turns!</i></p> <p><b>You say:</b></p> <p><i>Exactly! They realized they could share the ball and each take a turn playing with it.</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 the boy in the book talk to his friend after they had a fight?</i>	<b>Child says:</b> He was nice. <b>You say:</b> <i>Yes, he used nice words and tried to listen to what his friend had to say even though he was angry.</i>	<b>You say:</b> <i>Can you think of a time when you were angry at someone but used kind words to talk to them?</i>
<b>EXAMPLE 2</b>	<b>You say:</b> <i>After the boy listened to how his friend felt, what did he do next?</i>	<b>Child says:</b> <i>He thought of ideas.</i> <b>You say:</b> <i>I agree! He used his imagination to think of different ways to solve the problem he and his friend were having.</i>	<b>You say:</b> <i>Do you remember when you and your friend were having an argument? What were some different ways that you could have solved the problem?</i>



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

### Walk children through these four steps to resolve conflict.

1. **Calm Down.** To work through a conflict, children need to be calm. Show them how to take deep, slow breaths.
2. **Describe the Problem.** Ask children what happened from their point of view.
3. **Brainstorm.** Ask children to think through a few possible solutions to the problem and then ask them what they think might happen next if they tried each different solution.
4. **Agree and Try.** Have children agree to try a solution that everyone feels is fair. Once everyone agrees, the children can put the idea into action.

## 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)**.