



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 *Know and Follow Rules*. In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill Listens and Follows Directions, as they hear about the rules children follow in different situations at school. After reading the story, follow the steps below.

GUIDE	 1 ASK A QUESTION	 2 RESPOND AND EXTEND	 3 CONNECT TO EXPERIENCE
	EXAMPLE	<p>You say:</p> <p><i>In the book, the children followed many different rules at school. Can you name one of the rules they followed?</i></p>	<p>Child says:</p> <p><i>Listening!</i></p> <p>You say:</p> <p><i>Exactly! The children listened when someone else was talking.</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>The book said there are different rules for different places. What are some rules you follow when you are outside for recess?</i>	Child says: <i>Taking turns!</i> You say: <i>That's right! You take turns when you are playing games at recess.</i>	You say: <i>Can you think of a time when you followed the rules at recess? What rules did you follow?</i>
EXAMPLE 2	You say: <i>One of the reasons we have rules is to keep people safe. Can you think of one of the rules the children in the book followed to stay safe at school?</i>	Child says: <i>They walked in the hall.</i> You say: <i>I agree. They didn't run in the hallways because someone might get hurt. Walking in the halls is a good way to stay safe.</i>	You say: <i>What is a rule you follow to stay safe at school or at home?</i>



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

Ask children to repeat directions back to you. Asking children to repeat directions back to you is an easy way to check that they listened and understood your instructions. After asking children to do something you can say, "Can you tell me what I just asked you to do?"

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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