



# 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 *Officer Buckle and Gloria*. In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill Listens and Follows Directions, as they hear about a police officer who shares his best safety tips. After reading the story, follow the steps 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 happened when the children didn't listen to Officer Buckle's safety tips?</i></p>	<p><b>Child says:</b></p> <p><i>There were accidents!</i></p> <p><b>You say:</b></p> <p><i>That's right! Accidents happened. Food was spilled and sometimes people even got hurt.</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 Officer Buckle feel when no one followed his safety tips?</i>	<b>Child says:</b> <i>Sad.</i> <b>You say:</b> <i>I agree. I think he felt sad and frustrated that no one was listening when he tried to help.</i>	<b>You say:</b> <i>How do you think your teacher feels when students don't listen in school? What should you do if your teacher gives you directions?</i>
<b>EXAMPLE 2</b>	<b>You say:</b> <i>How did things change when Gloria started helping Officer Buckle?</i>	<b>Child says:</b> <i>Everyone listened.</i> <b>You say:</b> <i>I remember that too! They listened and I think Gloria helped them to understand the safety tips better.</i>	<b>You say:</b> <i>What should you do if you don't understand the directions or the rules? Who can you ask for help?</i>



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

**Try modeling what you are asking children to do.** When you ask children to do something, tell and show them how. You can say, "Like this" and then demonstrate what you want them to do. This can help them understand exactly what you are asking and give them a model to copy.



## 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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