



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 *Press Here*. In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill Listens and Follows Directions, as they follow a series of instructions in this interactive book. 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>What happened to the colored circles when you clapped your hands?</i></p> | <p>Child says:</p> <p><i>They got bigger!</i></p> <p>You say:</p> <p><i>That's right! And when you clapped again they got even bigger.</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 it feel to follow all the directions in the book?</i> | Child says: <i>Fun!</i> You say: <i>I agree! It was fun and you did a great job of doing what the book told you to do.</i> | You say: <i>Can you think of another time when you followed the rules and had fun? What happened?</i> |
| EXAMPLE 2 | You say: <i>Which direction came first in the book—tapping the dots or shaking the book?</i> | Child says: <i>The tapping!</i> You say: <i>Exactly! We had to tap the dots first, which made more dots. Then we shook the book and all the dots got mixed up!</i> | You say: <i>Can you think of directions you follow at home or at school that come in an order? What direction comes first and what comes second?</i> |



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

Give clear and specific directions. Once you have children’s attention, give clear and specific instructions when you want them to follow directions. For example, instead of saying, “Don’t make a mess!” use direct language like, “Please draw with your crayons on the paper.” Instead of saying something general like, “Let’s clean up!” give children more specific directions like, “Please stack the blocks on the shelf.” Children are better able to understand instructions that are communicated in a simple and direct way.



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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