



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 *Tessie Tames Her Tongue*. In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill Listens and Follows Directions, as they hear about Tessie, who learns the importance of listening. 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>Mr. Abel helped Tessie to be a better listener. What did he say a good listener does?</i></p> | <p>Child says:</p> <p><i>Pays attention.</i></p> <p>You say:</p> <p><i>That’s right. A good listener pays attention by looking at the person who is talking and staying quiet.</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 do you think the other students in Tessie's class felt when she talked all the time and didn't listen?</i> | Child says: <i>Mad.</i> You say: <i>Yes, they probably felt mad that she wouldn't listen to others.</i> | You say: <i>Can you think of a time when someone didn't listen to you? How did you feel?</i> |
| EXAMPLE 2 | You say: <i>What happened when Tessie started listening to others?</i> | Child says: <i>She did better.</i> You say: <i>Exactly! Her work at school got better, and she got along better with her friends.</i> | You say: <i>Can you think of a time when you listened when I told you to do something? What happened when you listened to me? How did it feel to be a good listener?</i> |



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

Get Children's Attention. Before asking children to do something, make sure you have their attention. To get children's attention, try these simple strategies:

- Call the child by name.
- Get down on the child's level and make eye contact.
- Ask the child to do a few things they are likely to do first (for example, clap their hands and make a silly face) and then ask them to do something they are less likely to do (for example, sit quietly with their hands in their lap).

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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