



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 *Just Five More Minutes!* In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill Makes Appropriate Movement Between Activities, as they hear about a boy who doesn’t want to stop playing and go to sleep. 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>At the beginning of the book, what was something Mark’s mom asked him to do to get ready for bed?</i></p>	<p>Child says: <i>Brush his teeth!</i></p> <p>You say: <i>That’s right! To get ready for bed, Mark had to brush his teeth.</i></p>	<p>You say:</p> <p><i>Brushing his teeth was part of Mark’s routine to get ready for bedtime. What things do you do to get ready for bed every night?</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>Why do you think Mark kept asking his mom for “just five more minutes”?</i>	Child says: <i>Because he didn’t want to go to bed.</i> You say: <i>I think so too! Mark wanted to keep playing and didn’t want to go to bed.</i>	You say: <i>Sometimes it’s hard to stop what you are doing when you are having fun. What is something that is hard for you to stop doing?</i>
EXAMPLE 2	You say: <i>Why was it important for Mark to stop playing and <u>transition</u> or switch to bedtime?</i>	Child says: <i>So he wouldn’t be sleepy!</i> You say: <i>I think so too! He didn’t stop playing when he was supposed to, so he was very sleepy in the morning.</i>	You say: <i>Can you think of a time when you had to stop playing and transition to something else? What happened? Why was it important for you to stop playing?</i>



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

Develop a daily routine. When children know their daily routines, it can make changing activities easier. Knowing what is next helps children get ready to move from one activity to another. One way you can help children prepare for activity changes is by making a picture chart of a daily routine. Post the chart in a spot where they can easily see it and follow along.

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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