



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 *The Berenstain Bears and the Messy Room*. In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill Organizes Self, Materials, and Belongings, as they hear about Brother and Sister Bear trying to clean up their room. 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>Why did Mama Bear get angry?</i></p>	<p>Child says:</p> <p><i>Because the bears made a mess!</i></p> <p>You say:</p> <p><i>That’s right. She was angry because Brother and Sister made a mess and didn’t clean up.</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 the Bear family help to clean up Brother and Sister's room?</i>	Child says: <i>Papa Bear built boxes.</i> You say: <i>I remember that too! While he built the boxes, the other bears sorted the toys.</i>	You say: <i>The Bears organized their things by sorting them into groups. Can you think of a time when you sorted your things to into groups? Did it help you stay organized?</i>
EXAMPLE 2	You say: <i>Why was the room better after it was organized?</i>	Child says: <i>The bears could find their toys!</i> You say: <i>That's true! They knew where to find everything and had room to play.</i>	You say: <i>How do you feel when your things are messy? How do you feel when everything is clean?</i>



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

Use simple organization. Help children find a specific place to put different things, like books and toys. Include them in the process of figuring out where to keep things so they feel responsible for keeping things organized. You can also use simple labels so children remember where things go. For example, put a label on a box that holds puzzles and a different label on a box that holds blocks. Remember to use pictures and words on the label to help children that are still learning to read!

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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