





# 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 *Princess Cupcake Jones and the Missing Tutu*. In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill Organizes Self, Materials, and Belongings, as they hear about a princess who loses her tutu. 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>When Princess Cupcake couldn't find her tutu, what did her mom tell her to do?</i></p>	<p><b>Child says:</b></p> <p><i>Clean her room!</i></p> <p><b>You say:</b></p> <p><i>That's right, her mom told her that cleaning her room would help her find her tutu.</i></p>



## Want more examples of this strategy?

	★ 1 ASK A QUESTION	★ 2 RESPOND AND EXTEND	★ 3 CONNECT TO EXPERIENCE
EXAMPLE 1	<b>You say:</b> <i>What did Princess Cupcake find when she was cleaning?</i>	<b>Child says:</b> <i>Her books!</i> <b>You say:</b> <i>I remember that too! She also found her pink bears.</i>	<b>You say:</b> <i>Have you ever found something you thought was lost? How did you feel when you found it?</i>
EXAMPLE 2	<b>You say:</b> <i>Why do you think Princess Cupcake was able to find her tutu after she had cleaned?</i>	<b>Child says:</b> <i>There was no more mess.</i> <b>You say:</b> <i>I agree. it was easier to find her tutu because she had cleaned the mess and <u>organized</u> her things, which is when you put things where they belong.</i>	<b>You say:</b> <i>Can you think of an example of something that you like to keep organized? Can you think of something that I like to keep organized?</i>



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

**Model organization.** Show children how you organize things in your daily life by talking through your organizational routines. For example, when you take off your coat, you can say things like, “I am going to hang up my coat so it doesn’t get dirty. I also like putting my coat in the same place every day because then I know where it is when I’m ready to go outside again!” By showing children how you organize things in your life, you help them build this skill for themselves.

## 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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