


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 *Feeling Shy!* In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill Participates in Group Activities, as they hear about Lily who helps others join in when they feel shy. 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 was Maria by herself at the beginning of the story?</i></p>	<p>Child says:</p> <p><i>She felt shy.</i></p> <p>You say:</p> <p><i>Yes. She didn't know anyone and was shy about joining in to play with the other kids.</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 Isaac felt when started playing with the other kids at the party?</i>	Child says: <i>Happy.</i> You say: <i>Me too! I think he felt happy once he joined in and started playing with the group.</i>	You say: <i>Have you ever helped someone who was feeling shy join in and play?</i>
EXAMPLE 2	You say: <i>Why did Lily feel shy when she went to the new club at the end of the story?</i>	Child says: <i>Because she didn't know anyone!</i> You say: <i>You're right. There were so many new people in the club and she didn't know any of them, so she was nervous about joining in and playing.</i>	You say: <i>Do you remember a time when you were with a new group of people? How did you feel?</i>



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

Build Confidence. A key part of participating in group activities is having confidence. Here are some ways to support children's confidence and encourage them to be a leader:

- Give children a chance to speak for themselves in large groups or when talking to new people (for example, when ordering food at a restaurant).
- Play games with children in which they can be the leader. For example, you could play Follow the Leader or Simon Says and let children be the one to give you instructions.

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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