



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 Giant Jelly Bean Jar*. In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill *Participates in Group Activities*, as they hear about Ben who has to learn to speak up in order to win a giant jar of jelly beans. 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 couldn't Ben win the jar of jelly beans even though he knew the answer to Jo-Jo's riddle?</i></p>	<p>Child says:</p> <p><i>He didn't speak up.</i></p> <p>You say:</p> <p><i>Yes! He was too shy and didn't speak up or raise his hand to answer the riddle.</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>Ben was shy at the start of the book but then got more <u>confident</u>, which means he believed in himself. What helped him become more confident?</i>	Child says: <i>He practiced.</i> You say: <i>I agree! I think practicing raising his hand helped him get more confident to answer the riddle.</i>	You say: <i>Can you think of a time when you felt too shy or scared to do something? How did you get more confident?</i>
EXAMPLE 2	You say: <i>How do you think Ben felt when he finally answered the riddle in front of everyone?</i>	Child says: <i>Happy!</i> You say: <i>Me too! I think he was happy and proud of himself for learning to speak up.</i>	You say: <i>Do you remember a time when you were proud of yourself for speaking up in front of a group of people?</i>



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

Find opportunities for children to practice participating in group activities. Give children opportunities to join in large group conversations. For example, if you are eating in a group, ask each person to share what they had the most fun doing that day or what they are going to do later that day. After each person shares their thoughts, you can make a positive comment such as, "Wow! It sounds like you had a lot of fun doing that!" This helps to show that everyone's voice is valued and respected.

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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