

# 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 Curious Garden*. In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill Shows Positive Attitude Towards Learning, as they hear about a boy named Liam, who learns to become a gardener. 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>Why did Liam go up onto the railway tracks?</i></p>                              | <p><b>Child says:</b></p> <p><i>He was exploring.</i></p> <p><b>You say:</b></p> <p><i>Exactly. He was exploring and was <u>curious</u>, which is when you want to learn more about something.</i></p> |



## Want more examples of this strategy?

|                  | <b>1 ASK A QUESTION</b>                                       | <b>2 RESPOND AND EXTEND</b>   | <b>3 CONNECT TO EXPERIENCE</b>  |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| <b>EXAMPLE 1</b> | <b>You say:</b> <i>What did Liam do to become a gardener?</i> | <b>Child says:</b> <i>He practiced.</i><br><b>You say:</b> <i>I think so too. At first, he didn't know how to garden, but he kept a good attitude and learned by trying over and over again.</i>                  | <b>You say:</b> <i>What was something that you couldn't do at first but learned by practicing? How did you keep a positive attitude when it was hard?</i> |
| <b>EXAMPLE 2</b> | <b>You say:</b> <i>What did Liam do during the winter?</i>    | <b>Child says:</b> <i>He learned more about becoming a gardener!</i><br><b>You say:</b> <i>Yes! Instead of worrying about the garden all winter, he prepared for the spring and learned more about gardening.</i> | <b>You say:</b> <i>What was a time when you learned more about something that you cared about? How did you feel when you learned more?</i>                |



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

**Share your love of learning.** Enthusiasm is contagious. Express enthusiasm for the new things children learn and talk about your own love of learning. Tell children about a time you were really excited to learn something new. Let them know how learning this new thing made you feel. For example, you could say, "I love learning about animals. I was so excited when I learned that a cheetah could run as fast as a car! Isn't that cool? It made me want to learn even more about animals when I heard how fast a cheetah was!"

## 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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