



# 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 *Jabari Jumps*. In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill Shows Positive Attitude Towards Learning, as they hear about Jabari, who learns how to jump off the diving board. After reading the story, follow the steps below.

GUIDE	 <b>1 ASK A QUESTION</b>	 <b>2 RESPOND AND EXTEND</b>	 <b>3 CONNECT TO EXPERIENCE</b>
	EXAMPLE	<p><b>You say:</b></p> <p><i>How do you think Jabari felt when he was trying to jump off the diving board for the first time?</i></p>	<p><b>Child says:</b></p> <p><i>Scared.</i></p> <p><b>You say:</b></p> <p><i>I think so too. He had never jumped off the diving board and seemed scared to try it for the first time.</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>Even though he was scared, Jabari was also <u>eager</u> to try the diving board in the story, which means he was excited. How do you think being eager helped Jabari?</i>	<b>Child says:</b> <i>It made him try.</i> <b>You say:</b> <i>That's right. Being eager and having a positive attitude helped him to try even though he was scared to do it.</i>	<b>You say:</b> <i>What was a time when you were eager to try something for the first time? What happened after you tried it?</i>
EXAMPLE 2	<b>You say:</b> <i>What did Jabari say right before he jumped into the pool?</i>	<b>Child says:</b> <i>He said he loved surprises!</i> <b>You say:</b> <i>Yes! He said he loved surprises to remind himself that trying something new can be exciting even if it's scary.</i>	<b>You say:</b> <i>What is something that you are excited to learn to do?</i>



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

**Focus on your child's interests.** All children have different interests. A great way to build a positive attitude toward learning is to focus on the things that interest children most. For example, if children like to draw, read a book about art together. Be enthusiastic about what children are learning and express excitement about learning new together in the future. By building off children's interests, you can help them to feel positive about their ability to learn new things. It can also help them to learn other skills, like reading, while they are learning about something they already find interesting.



## 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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