




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 Day You Begin*. In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill Respects Rights, Diversity, Feelings, and Property of Others, as they hear about children who struggle to fit in at school. 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>What was one way that Angelina felt different than her classmates?</i></p>	<p>Child says:</p> <p><i>She didn't go anywhere.</i></p> <p>You say:</p> <p><i>Yes. She stayed home with her sister over the summer while other students traveled.</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 the little boy felt when no one would play with him at recess?</i>	Child says: <i>He was sad.</i> You say: <i>I agree. He felt sad and lonely because he was by himself.</i>	You say: <i>Has anything like that ever happened to you/ your classmate? How did you feel?</i>
EXAMPLE 2	You say: <i>What happened to Angelina that made her feel like she wasn't so different from her classmates?</i>	Child says: <i>She had the same name as the boy's sister!</i> You say: <i>Exactly! She realized that Rigoberto had a sister named Angelina too.</i>	You say: <i>What are some things you have in common with your classmates?</i>



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

Talk to children about what feelings look and sound like. Being able to identify feelings helps children recognize their own feelings and the feelings of others. Recognizing the feelings of others is the first step to building respect for different points of view. Help children learn about feelings by asking them to act out an emotion and have them look in a mirror so they can see how their face looks to others. You can also ask children to identify how characters in books or videos feel and ask them why they think the character feels that way.

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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