



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 *How Do Dinosaurs Go to School?* In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill Respects School Environment and Materials, as they hear about the things that might happen if dinosaurs showed up at school. After reading the story, follow the steps below.

GUIDE	 1 ASK A QUESTION	 2 RESPOND AND EXTEND	 3 CONNECT TO EXPERIENCE
	EXAMPLE	<p>You say:</p> <p><i>This story is about <u>respect</u> at school, which is when you show care for places, things, and people in your classroom or school. What was one way the dinosaurs at the end of the book showed respect at school?</i></p>	<p>Child says:</p> <p><i>The dinosaur cleaned up his desk.</i></p> <p>You say:</p> <p><i>Yes! He showed respect by tidying his desk before he left school for the day.</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>Can you name something one of the dinosaurs did at school that did not show respect?</i>	Child says: <i>He ran up the stairs.</i> You say: <i>Yes! One of the dinosaurs ran up the stairs at school, which was not respectful.</i>	You say: <i>What are some things you have seen people do at school that did not show respect?</i>
EXAMPLE 2	You say: <i>How do you think the dinosaurs felt when they showed respect at school?</i>	Child says: <i>Happy.</i> You say: <i>I think so too. They probably felt happy and proud that they were being respectful.</i>	You say: <i>How do you feel when you show respect at school? How do you think others feel when you show respect?</i>



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

Talk it out. You can teach children about respect by talking them through how you take care of things in your daily life. For example, after you are finished reading a book, you can say things like, "I'm going to put the book back where I found it and do it carefully so I don't rip any pages. This way other people will be able to find it and enjoy it too!". By showing children how you take care of things in your life, you help them build this skill for themselves.

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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