



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 *Respect and Take Care of Things*. In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill Respects School Environment and Materials, as they follow a young girl who is learning about the importance of respecting things. 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 the girl in the book took care of things?</i></p>	<p>Child says:</p> <p><i>She put things back.</i></p> <p>You say:</p> <p><i>You're right! She only took out one thing at a time and put them back where they belonged afterward.</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>What was one of the reasons the little girl said it was important to take care of things?</i>	Child says: <i>To be safe.</i> You say: <i>Exactly! She said it was important to put things away and keep the floor clean so that everyone could be safe. If the floor was messy, people might fall and get hurt.</i>	You say: <i>What are some reasons why you take care of your things? How does it feel when you take good care of them?</i>
EXAMPLE 2	You say: <i>What did the little girl do before playing with her friend's toy?</i>	Child says: <i>She asked.</i> You say: <i>Yes, she asked her friend if she could play with the toy first.</i>	You say: <i>Have you ever borrowed something from someone? How did you show respect for what you borrowed?</i>



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

Use Simple Organization. Help children find a specific place to put different things, like books and toys. Include children in the process of figuring out where to store things so that they feel responsible for their belongings. You can also make labels to help children remember where things go. Labels with words and pictures can help children remember where everything belongs and encourages early reading skills too.

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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