



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 *Little Kunoichi The Ninja Girl*. In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill Strives for Quality Work, as they hear about a young girl learning to become a ninja who must practice and work hard to improve her skills. 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>What did Kunoichi think about her ninja lessons at the beginning of the book?</p>	<p>Child says:</p> <p>She thought they were hard.</p> <p>You say:</p> <p>Right. She thought that ninja school was really hard and challenging.</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 did Kunoichi and Chibi Samurai do together?</i>	Child says: <i>Practice!</i> You say: <i>I remember that too. They kept practicing all of their ninja skills.</i>	You say: <i>Let's think about something that you are learning. Why do you think practicing is important?</i>
EXAMPLE 2	You say: <i>How do you think Kunoichi and Chibi Samurai felt after the Island Festival?</i>	Child says: <i>Happy!</i> You say: <i>I think so too. I think they felt happy and proud of all the skills they had practiced and improved.</i>	You say: <i>Can you think of a time when you worked hard to learn something that was difficult? How did you feel when you could finally do it?</i>



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

Make sure expectations are heard and understood. Before children can work their hardest to meet expectations, expectations must be heard and understood. Young children may sometimes feel confused about what is being asked of them and may not meet expectations because they don't know what they are. Make sure children hear and understand what expectations you are setting for them before they begin a task. Ask them to tell you what they are expected to do in their own words.

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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