






# 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 *When Sophie Thinks She Can’t*. In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill Strives for Quality Work, as they hear about Sophie, who struggles with certain tasks and has to learn to keep trying her best until she can do it.

GUIDE	 <b>ASK A QUESTION</b>	 <b>RESPOND AND EXTEND</b>	 <b>CONNECT TO EXPERIENCE</b>
	EXAMPLE	<p><b>You say:</b></p> <p><i>At first, Sophie thought she couldn’t solve the math problem because she’s not good at math. What did she do next?</i></p>	<p><b>Child says:</b></p> <p><i>She kept trying.</i></p> <p><b>You say:</b></p> <p><i>Yes! She didn’t give up. She kept trying to solve the problem the teacher gave to the class.</i></p>



## Want more examples of this strategy?

	<b>1 ASK A QUESTION</b>	<b>2 RESPOND AND EXTEND</b>	<b>3 CONNECT TO EXPERIENCE</b>
<b>EXAMPLE 1</b>	<b>You say:</b> <i>How did Sophie feel at first when she tried to do the math problem Ms. Mulry gave to the class?</i>	<b>Child says:</b> <i>Sad.</i> <b>You say:</b> <i>Yes, she seemed sad and <u>discouraged</u>, which is when you feel like you can't do something.</i>	<b>You say:</b> <i>Can you think of a time when you felt discouraged? What did you do to get through it?</i>
<b>EXAMPLE 2</b>	<b>You say:</b> <i>What did Ms. Mulry say the students needed to do to become smarter?</i>	<b>Child says:</b> <i>Practice!</i> <b>You say:</b> <i>That's right. They needed to keep practicing doing the math problem to make them smarter.</i>	<b>You say:</b> <i>Do you remember a time you learned something by practicing? What were you learning?</i>



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

**Think like Goldilocks.** In a children's story, a little girl named Goldilocks tastes three bowls of food. One is "too hot", one is "too cold", and one is "just right." It is important that expectations are set at the appropriate level for children. If expectations are too high, children will get discouraged. If expectations are too low, they will get bored or may feel that you don't value their abilities. Try to set expectations for children that are "just right" for their ability level.

## 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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