



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 *David’s Drawings*. In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill Works and Plays Cooperatively With Others, as they hear about a shy boy named David who learns to make friends by working with his classmates to draw a picture together. After reading the story, follow the steps below.

GUIDE	1 ASK A QUESTION	2 RESPOND AND EXTEND	3 CONNECT TO EXPERIENCE
	EXAMPLE You say: At the beginning of the story, David was drawing by himself. What happened next?	Child says: The other kids helped! You say: That’s right! His classmates saw what he was working on, and they asked David if they could add to his drawing!	You say: Can you think of a time when you worked on something with a friend or sibling like David worked with his classmates?



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 David felt when the other students helped with his drawing?</i>	Child says: <i>Good!</i> You say: <i>I think so too! At the start of the story, he seemed shy around his classmates but by the end he was happy to draw with them.</i>	You say: <i>Have you ever been shy around someone but then started to play with them? How did it feel when you played together?</i>
EXAMPLE 2	You say: <i>David called the drawing at the end of the book "Our Class Picture." Why do you think he called it that?</i>	Child says: <i>Because the whole class helped!</i> You say: <i>Yes! Everyone in the class worked together to add to the drawing so it belonged to the whole class.</i>	You say: <i>Can you think of something that you have done in school with your whole class?</i>



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

Keys to connecting. Finding ways to connect with others can be hard for children. You can help them learn to positively engage with others by modeling these keys to connecting:

- **Listen:** Remind children that everyone likes to be heard and respected.
- **Ask a question:** Tell children to ask a question when working or playing with others to show that they are interested in other people's thoughts and feelings.
- **Contribute:** Suggest that children offer a way to help with a shared activity.
- **Show support:** Tell children that they can participate by giving others a compliment.

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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