



# 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 *Our Community Garden*. In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill Works and Plays Cooperatively With Others, as they hear about a group of friends who work together to take care of a community garden. After reading the story, follow the steps below.

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>What did the children in the book like to spend most of their time doing?</i></p>	<p><b>Child says:</b></p> <p><i>Working in the garden.</i></p> <p><b>You say:</b></p> <p><i>Exactly! They loved to work together in their garden.</i></p>



## Want more examples of this strategy?

	★ 1 ASK A QUESTION	★ 2 RESPOND AND EXTEND	★ 3 CONNECT TO EXPERIENCE
EXAMPLE 1	<b>You say:</b> <i>Once the vegetables had grown, what did the children decide to do?</i>	<b>Child says:</b> <i>Have a feast.</i> <b>You say:</b> <i>That's right! They had a feast and everyone brought a dish made from the vegetables that they grew together.</i>	<b>You say:</b> <i>Can you think of a time when you shared something with a friend or sibling?</i>
EXAMPLE 2	<b>You say:</b> <i>How do you think everyone felt when they were at the feast eating the food that they grew together?</i>	<b>Child says:</b> <i>They were happy.</i> <b>You say:</b> <i>That's right. I bet they were happy and proud that they worked together to make something special.</i>	<b>You say:</b> <i>Do you remember a time in school when everyone worked together to create one thing? How did it feel when you were done?</i>



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

**Make an appreciation notebook.** Set up a notebook where children can write or draw notes of appreciation when someone else does something nice for them. For example, if a sibling or classmate shares a toy with them, they can write a thank you note or draw a picture about their sibling sharing in the notebook. Children can choose to give the note or drawing to the person who did something nice, share the note with you, or leave it in the notebook. This helps them reflect when they have positive interactions with others and do something positive in return.

## 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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