



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 *Swimmy*. In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill Works and Plays Cooperatively with Others, as they hear about a clever little fish named Swimmy who overcomes a big problem by working with his fish friends. After reading the story, follow the steps below.

GUIDE	 ASK A QUESTION	 RESPOND AND EXTEND	 CONNECT TO EXPERIENCE
	EXAMPLE	<p>You say: <i>How did the fish solve their problem?</i></p>	<p>Child says: <i>They worked together!</i></p> <p>You say: <i>Yes! Swimmy and his friends worked together to trick the big fish.</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>How do you think Swimmy and his friends felt when they worked together?</i>	Child says: <i>Happy.</i> You say: <i>Yes, they probably felt happy and proud that they were able to work together.</i>	You say: <i>How do you feel when you work with other people to get something done?</i>
EXAMPLE 2	You say: <i>Swimmy and his friends <u>cooperated</u> with each other, which means they worked together to get something done. What did they do together to trick the big fish?</i>	Child says: <i>They made a really big fish!</i> You say: <i>Exactly. They cooperated with each other to form an even bigger fish.</i>	You say: <i>Can you think of a time when you showed cooperation? How did you work together with others?</i>



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

Do an activity with children where you both can contribute. Here is an example of something you can do with children where you both contribute to a shared task: 1) Read a story you have never read before with children; 2) Halfway through the story, take a break and talk to children about what the ending might be. Let children guess first and then share your guess; 3) With children, come up with a shared guess of what will happen; 4) Draw a picture together of the ending you agreed on. Ask children to describe the picture when it's done and name the parts that each of you added; 5) Finish the rest of the story and then compare the ending to the one you decided upon together.

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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