






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 *The Enormous Turnip*. In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill Works and Plays Cooperatively With Others, as they hear about a farmer who can't pull an enormous turnip out of the ground and needs the help of others so they can move it together.

| GUIDE |  ASK A QUESTION |  RESPOND AND EXTEND |  CONNECT TO EXPERIENCE |
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| EXAMPLE | <p>You say:</p> <p><i>What did the farmer's wife do when she saw that the farmer couldn't pull the turnip out of the ground?</i></p> | <p>Child says:</p> <p><i>She helped him!</i></p> <p>You say:</p> <p><i>That's right! She saw that he couldn't do it alone and tried to help.</i></p> | <p>You say:</p> <p><i>Can you think of a time when you saw a friend or sibling who needed help? What did you do to help them?</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 the father felt when he wasn't able to pull the turnip out of the ground by himself?</i> | Child says: <i>Mad.</i> You say: <i>I agree! Maybe he also felt <u>frustrated</u> or angry that he couldn't do it by himself.</i> | You say: <i>Can you think of a time when you felt mad because you couldn't do something on your own? What did you do to solve the problem?</i> |
| EXAMPLE 2 | You say: <i>How was the farmer able to finally get the enormous turnip out of the ground?</i> | Child says: <i>Everyone helped him.</i> You say: <i>That's right. Once everyone helped, they were able to get the turnip out of the ground together.</i> | You say: <i>Can you think of a time when you needed help from other people to do something?</i> |



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

Create a job for your entire family or class. Show children how working together can help you complete a job and get a reward. For example, ask the whole family or class to work together to complete a task, like cleaning up. Give each person a different part of the job to do. Tell children that if everyone does their part of the job, then the whole family/class gets a reward, like getting extra time to play. Make sure children know the only way to get the reward is if each person helps and everyone works 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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