

KIREKIDS

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THE

Pathway Guide

A parent's guide to choosing — and using — the right KireKids story for the child in front of you.

WELCOME

Wisdom is not handed over in a single lesson.

Thank you for taking the Pathway Finder. You now have a name for what your child is growing through – and a KireKids story matched to it. This short guide is the next step.

It does three things. It explains how KireKids books are built, so you know what you are bringing home. It walks you through all four pathways, so you can see the whole map – because children grow through more than one thing, and you know yours best. And, most importantly, it shows you how to use a KireKids story with your child in a way that supports them without lecturing them.

A note before you begin

Every KireKids title is still on its way – some coming soon, some in development. This guide is written to be useful to you **now**, while you wait, not only later. The section titled “Start before the books arrive” gives you something to do with your child this week, with no book required.

KireKids is built on one belief. Wisdom is not handed over in a single conversation. It is passed down through family, practised through small choices, and carried forward by the next generation. Our books are made to move at exactly that pace – unhurried, rooted, and patient with a child who is still becoming.

We write for the child who wants to be understood, not lectured. This guide is written for the parent raising that child.

— **KireKids**

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Every pathway is a story and a companion.

Each KireKids pathway pairs two things: a story your child can finish, and a companion they can actually use. One awakens something. The other gives it somewhere to go.

The story

Each KireKids novel is written to be **finishable** — short chapters, a strong voice, and no filler. A child meets a character who is growing through something real, and reaches the last page. Finishing a book is its own quiet lesson: I can see something through. For a reluctant reader, that may be the most important thing the book does.

The companion

Alongside each story is a companion — a reflection journal, an action journal, or a workbook. If the story helps a child see, the companion helps them practise. Companions are designed to be usable, not overwhelming: a single sentence or a full page, taken up in any order, at any pace.

Why it is built this way

A story on its own can move a child for an afternoon. A worksheet on its own can feel like a chore. But a story that awakens something, paired with a companion that gives that feeling somewhere to land — that is how a small shift becomes a lasting one. It is the difference between a child being told a lesson and a child living their way into it.

There is no failing a KireKids journal

The companions are designed to be **used, not completed**. One prompt is a success. A blank page is not a failure. Any order, any pace — that is not a loophole, it is the design.

Four pathways. One growing-up universe.

Your quiz result pointed you to one pathway. Here is the whole map. Read all four – you may recognise your child in more than one, and that is exactly how growing up works.

FAMILY WISDOM & BELONGING

Every Crumb

For the child asking questions about family, culture, identity, and where they fit. Maya never met her grandmother – until one photograph changes the way she hears her mother's corrections, her auntie's stories, and the Jamaican sayings that keep arriving exactly when she needs them.

HELPS WITH heritage, identity, belonging, family wisdom, literacy

AGES 9–14 **COMPANIONS** four reflection journals: Notice, Grow, Belong, Become

EFFORT & FINISHING

The Summer Malik Started

For the child who avoids trying, or gives up before they start – and tunes out lectures. Malik is funny, guarded, and allergic to pep talks. One summer, he learns that acting unbothered is not the same as being free.

HELPS WITH effort, follow-through, motivation, reluctant readers

AGES 10–14 **COMPANIONS** four action journals: Role Modelling, Late Is Not Never, Show Up Uncomfortable, Finish One Real Thing

RESPONSIBILITY & INDEPENDENCE

The No-Nag Plan

For the child who needs reminding, again and again, to handle everyday things. Nia is tired of being reminded; her mother is tired of reminding. One summer, they try a different plan – less nagging, more ownership.

HELPS WITH routines, responsibility, executive function, independence

AGES 12–15 **COMPANIONS** three workbooks: 30-Day Starter, 8-Week Summer, 12-Week School Year

COURAGE & BEING SEEN

When Fear Wore Earrings

For the child who holds parts of themselves back, careful about being seen. Anika is stylish and observant – because being seen has never felt simple. A cultural event asks her to decide what is style, what is armour, and what she is finally ready to show.

HELPS WITH courage, self-expression, belonging, confidence

AGES 9–13 **COMPANION** a courage and self-expression companion

Not sure your result fit? Trust what you know. Start with the pathway that matches what your child is navigating right now – they can grow into the others.

How to use a KireKids story with your child.

When the books arrive, here is how to get the most from them. The short version: less than you would think. A KireKids story works best when an adult does not work too hard.

1 Let them read it as a story first.

A KireKids novel is a novel, not a lesson in disguise. Let your child meet Maya, Malik, Nia, or Anika the way they would meet any character – for the story. The growth happens underneath. You do not need to point it out.

2 Resist the quiz.

The strongest temptation after a child finishes a meaningful book is to ask, “So, what did you learn?” Try not to. That question turns a story back into school. If you want to open a conversation, ask about the character, not the lesson – “What did you make of Malik?” travels much further than “What did this teach you?”

3 The companion is optional – and so is every page.

The journals and workbooks are built to be picked up, not completed. One prompt is a success. A page left blank is not a failure. If your child uses the companion loosely, in their own order, that is precisely how it was designed to be used.

4 Read within reach, not over their shoulder.

Especially with a reluctant reader, your presence matters more than your supervision. Read your own book in the same room. Ask nothing. Availability, not surveillance, is what quietly invites a child to talk.

5 Let a line land in its own time.

KireKids stories carry sayings and ideas a child may not fully understand on first read – and that is intentional. Wisdom that arrives too neatly does not stay. Trust that a line will return to your child later, when they are ready for it.

6 Notice the showing up, not just the finishing.

Whether it is a chapter or a journal page, the ordinary moment your child returns to the book is worth more than the moment they finish it. Notice that out loud, lightly – and then let it be.

WHILE YOU WAIT

Start before the books arrive.

The KireKids titles are still on their way. But the pathway your child is on is here now – and you do not need a published book to begin. Here is one small, real thing you can do this week, in each lane. Pick the one that fits.

FAMILY WISDOM & BELONGING

Ask one question, together.

Choose one family saying, story, or tradition, and ask an older relative about it – a grandparent, an auntie, a neighbour. Let your child do the asking. Family wisdom moves best when it is requested, not delivered.

EFFORT & FINISHING

Name one real thing.

Help your child choose one real thing – their choice – to start, show up for, and finish over the next week or two. Not five things. One, small enough to begin today. This is the heart of our free One Real Thing Toolkit (see the next page).

RESPONSIBILITY & INDEPENDENCE

Trade one reminder for one system.

Pick a single daily reminder you are tired of repeating. Together, decide how your child will own it without you – a checklist, an alarm, a place things live. Then comes the hard part: stop giving that reminder.

COURAGE & BEING SEEN

Make one small space to be seen.

Find one low-stakes moment for your child to share something true – a meal where everyone names one real thing about their day, a piece of their work shown without being questioned about it. Being seen gets easier with practice in safe rooms.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

You are on the path with your child now.

You are now on the KireKids list for your child's pathway. Here is what that means — and what it does not.

- We will send news as the books in your pathway move toward publication — including sample pages and early-reader opportunities.
- We will share occasional parent notes: short, practical, and never a lecture.
- We will not crowd your inbox. When your pathway's book is ready, you will be among the first to know.

Two things for right now

Take the free tool. The *One Real Thing Toolkit* is a free KireKids resource for helping any young person start, show up, and finish. It pairs naturally with the Effort pathway, but it works for every child. Find it at kirekids.ca.

Explore the story worlds. Visit kirekids.ca to read more about *Every Crumb*, *The Summer Malik Started*, *The No-Nag Plan*, and *When Fear Wore Earrings* — and to find the pathway journals and workbooks as they are released.

Thank you for choosing to grow alongside your child — one story, one question, and one real thing at a time.

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