

BUILD STRONG FAMILIES WITH STORIES

Dear Educator,

We are thrilled to share **BUILD STRONG FAMILIES WITH STORIES**, a joint initiative of First Book and Search Institute, with generous support from Disney. This diverse collection of 21 books with downloadable reading guides is designed to help families grow stronger.

Strong families support a child's success in school and in life. Through ongoing research, Search Institute has identified actions, called Family Strengths, that **ALL FAMILIES** can take to grow stronger together. Search Institute research has shown that these Family Strengths can have an even larger impact on a child's well-being than family income, immigration status, education level, neighborhood or other demographic factors. The Family Strengths fall into six categories:

- ★ EXPRESSING CARE
- ★ CHALLENGING GROWTH
- ★ PROVIDING SUPPORT
- ★ EXPANDING POSSIBILITIES
- ★ CREATING ROUTINES AND TRADITIONS
- ★ CONNECTING TO YOUR COMMUNITY

The books (appropriate for children ages 4 to 8) each model behaviors that families can adopt in order to grow stronger. Every title is paired with a downloadable reading guide designed for parents and caregivers that includes activities, discussion prompts and key ideas to take away from the story.

Send these books and reading guides home to families, or use them in your own classroom or program! We hope these resources will help you engage families while empowering them to build upon their own strengths and help their children succeed.

Happy Reading!

Your friends at First Book and Search Institute



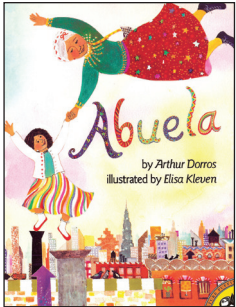
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Family Strengths are actions that **ALL FAMILIES** can take to grow stronger and support a child's success, according to Search Institute research. This guide will help you discuss this story with your child and use it to explore your family's unique strengths.

A Family Strength in this story is

EXPLORING:

exposing your child to new ideas, experiences and places.



ABUELA

by Arthur Dorros; illustrated by Elisa Kleven

Take flight with Rosalba and her grandmother as they soar in Rosalba's imagination all over New York City, visiting family and seeing places with special meaning to Abuela.

THIS STORY MODELS EXPLORING



Abuela shows how going places together can help your child learn about the world and expand possibilities within reach. Think about how:

- Visiting real or imagined places with Abuela opens up possibilities to Rosalba and makes her comfortable with exploring new places.
- Rosalba expands her thinking, knowledge and imagination as she explores the city.
- When Abuela suggests another adventure, Rosalba is excited to go with her.

Maps offer fun opportunities to talk about and discover places of importance to you. Talk with your child about familiar locations, like the places where friends and family live and work, then draw a map together that includes those spots. Or, ask your child to invent a world they'd like to travel to, then draw a map of it and pretend you're visiting that place together. What do you see, smell or hear? Talk with your child about this new world and the things that make it different from your own.

TRY THIS!



TALK AND ASK YOUR CHILD QUESTIONS AS YOU READ



- ★ Rosalba likes visiting new places with Abuela. ASK: *Who do you like to go places with? If you could fly anywhere in the world, where would you like to go? Who would you take with you?*
- ★ Tell your child about a place you visited as a child or as an adult that has special meaning for you. ASK: *Is there a place you remember visiting that was special for you?"*
- ★ In Rosalba's imagination, she and Abuela are flying over the city. ASK: *What things do they see? If you could fly like a bird over your own neighborhood, what do you think you would see?*

EXPLORING is an action you can take in your family to expand possibilities for one another. Learn more at www.ParentFurther.com.



www.firstbook.org



Discovering what kids need to succeed



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This tipsheet was created by First Book and Search Institute, with generous support from Disney.