

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



BUILD STRONG FAMILIES WITH STORIES

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.



AMAZING GRACE

by Mary Hoffman; illustrated by Caroline Binch

Grace wants to perform the role of Peter Pan in her school play. Her classmates say she can't because she's a girl and she's black, but Grace's grandmother tells her she can be anything she wants to be.

THIS STORY MODELS INSPIRING



Amazing Grace shows how important it is to challenge growth in your child and to help him or her see that the future is full of possibilities that are within reach. Think about how:

- Grace's family uses stories to encourage Grace to use her imagination.
- Grace's imagination and creativity make her open to new ideas and possibilities.
- By taking Grace to the ballet to see a dancer with brown skin like Grace's, Nana helps Grace see future possibilities for herself.
- Grace's mother and grandmother let Grace know that they believe she can do anything she puts her mind to.

TALK AND ASK YOUR CHILD QUESTIONS AS YOU READ



- ★ Grace loves to act out stories. ASK: *Who do you like to be when you pretend?*
- ★ Kids in Grace's class say she can't play the part of Peter Pan. Tell your child about a time when someone told you that you couldn't do something and how you felt about it. ASK: *Has that happened to you? What did you do?*
- ★ Nana takes Grace on a special outing to the theatre. ASK: *Why do you think Nana wanted Grace to see this ballet? How do you think Grace felt?*
- ★ Nana says, "You can be anything you want, Grace, if you put your mind to it." ASK: *What are some things that you want to do?*

TRY THIS!



Read books or articles together about all kinds of people with interesting or unusual careers and lives. Introduce kids to inspiring people or stories that show them how they can overcome challenges and reach their own goals.

INSPIRING is an action you can take in your family to challenge growth in 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.