

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.

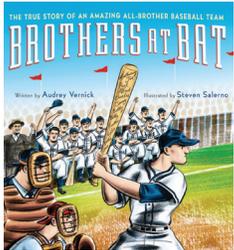
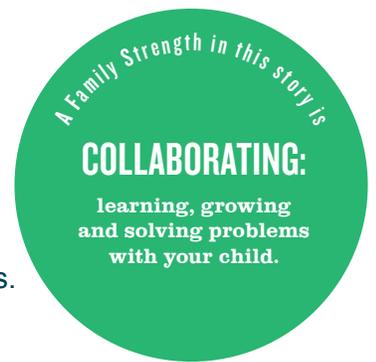
Happy Reading!

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.



BROTHERS AT BAT: THE TRUE STORY OF AN AMAZING ALL-BROTHER BASEBALL TEAM

by Audrey Vernick; illustrated by Steven Salerno

The kindness and generosity of the Acerra family helped their twelve sons become the longest-playing all-brother baseball team in history.

THIS STORY MODELS COLLABORATING



Brothers at Bat shows how families can learn, grow and solve problems by working together and sharing power. Think about how:

- The brothers joke together about their strengths and weaknesses as ball players but never show jealousy or rivalry.
- When brother Alfred gets hit by a ball and loses an eye, all the brothers help him adjust and return to the team.
- No matter what happened, the Acerras supported each other and stayed together as a team.

TALK AND ASK YOUR CHILD QUESTIONS AS YOU READ



- ★ The Acerra brothers all loved playing baseball. ASK: *What does your family enjoy doing together? What would it be like to be on a team with members of your family?*
- ★ “We stuck together,” Freddie said. ASK: *What does it mean to stick together? Why is it important for families to stick together?*
- ★ This is a true story. ASK: *What do you think it was like to grow up in the 1920s and 1930s? How is the Acerra family like your family? How is it different?*
- ★ The Baseball Hall of Fame honored the Acerras. ASK: *Why do you think they were honored? What are some things the Acerra brothers did that made them honorable?*

TRY THIS!



Your family is like a team. Each person plays a different role and has different talents. To help your family recognize these, sit down as a group and have each person write or draw pictures of a strength they think each member of the family brings to your team. Talk as a family about the work you do to support one another, as well as skills you can teach one another.

COLLABORATING is an action you can take to share power in your family. 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.