

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.

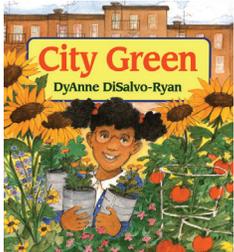
Happy Reading!

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.



CITY GREEN

written and illustrated by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan

Everyone on Rosa's block comes together to create a community garden in a littered vacant lot. Even Old Man Hammer, her grouchiest neighbor, plants a wonderful surprise.

THIS STORY MODELS LEADING AND SERVING TOGETHER



City Green is about pulling together. The book shows how great things can be accomplished when people connect with their communities and work on something they all care about. Think about how:

- Marcy and her neighbors feel sad about the ugly vacant lot in their neighborhood.
- Old Man Hammer and Miss Rosa help Marcy realize the lot can be used for something good.
- Marcy and Miss Rosa get support from their neighbors to lease the vacant lot from the city for a community garden.
- The whole block works together to make the lot bloom with flowers and vegetables.

TRY THIS!



Make volunteering a family activity. You can start with small efforts, like picking up trash in your neighborhood or welcoming a new neighbor. Include your child in conversations with family, friends and neighbors about how to address needs in your community. Teaming up with others helps your child understand that they don't have to do things alone.

TALK AND ASK YOUR CHILD QUESTIONS AS YOU READ



- ★ Marcy cares about her neighborhood and wants to improve it. ASK: *How do you feel about our neighborhood? What would you change?*
- ★ Marcy wants to do something about the vacant lot. ASK: *Could Marcy turn the vacant lot into a garden alone? Do you think it is better to work together or alone to get things done? Why?*
- ★ Marcy and Miss Rosa work together and get others excited about the garden. ASK: *Why do you think the neighbors enjoy working together in the garden?*
- ★ Marcy's neighborhood gets a beautiful garden. ASK: *How else do you think the garden helped the neighborhood? What could we do to help our community?*

LEADING AND SERVING TOGETHER is an action you can take in your family to connect to your community. 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.