

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.

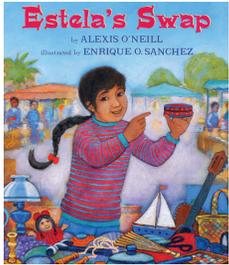
Happy Reading!

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.



ESTELA'S SWAP

by Alexis O'Neill; illustrated by Enrique O. Sanchez

Estela goes to the Swap Meet hoping to sell her music box and earn money for dancing lessons. Instead, she gets a new friend and a special gift.

THIS STORY MODELS ENJOYING TIME TOGETHER



Estela's Swap is about creating routines and traditions. The book shows how you can teach your child new skills while doing everyday things together. Think about how:

- By taking Estela to the Swap Meet, Estela's father gives her the opportunity to earn money for dancing lessons.
- Papa bargains in front of Estela so she can learn how to make a deal.
- Estela learns what it means to "swap" when she exchanges gifts with the flower seller.
- Papa compliments Estela on her swapping skills and agrees to let her come back next week to earn money and learn more.

Show your child how to understand value by hosting your own swap meet with friends or family. Invite guests to bring clothes, toys, household items or other things they no longer use, then trade so everyone goes home with new things they find useful. Help your child choose items he or she would be willing to swap and help him or her trade for new items he or she finds exciting. If there are leftovers no one wants, consider recycling them into something new or donating them to others who might use them.

TRY THIS!



TALK AND ASK YOUR CHILD QUESTIONS AS YOU READ



- ★ Estela is willing to sell her music box so she can take dancing lessons. ASK: *Can you tell me about a time when you had to give up something to get something else you wanted?*
- ★ Papa shows Estela how to bargain. ASK: *What are some things adults have shown you how to do? What things could you teach me or another adult?*
- ★ Estela rushes to help the flower seller when the wind starts blowing. ASK: *Why do you think Estela helps her? Why does she give the flower seller the music box?*
- ★ After Estela gives the flower seller her music box, the flower seller gives her the skirt. ASK: *Why do you think the flower seller wanted to give Estela the skirt? Why isn't Estela upset that she no longer has the music box?*

ENJOYING TIME TOGETHER is an action you can take in your family to create routines and traditions. Learn more at www.ParentFurther.com.



www.firstbook.org



Discovering what kids need to succeed



BE INSPIRED
Disney CITIZENSHIP

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