

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.

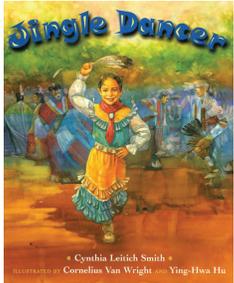
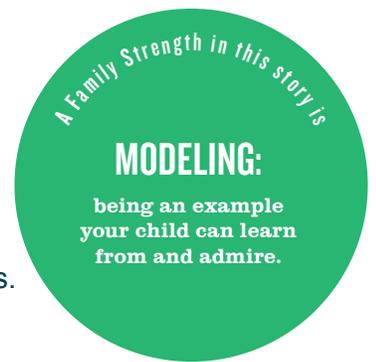
Happy Reading!

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.



JINGLE DANCER

by Cynthia Leitich Smith; illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu

Jenna is eager to carry on a family tradition by dancing at the next powwow. As she collects jingles to help her dress make the proper sound, the women in her family share their own dancing stories with her.

THIS STORY SHOWS MODELING



Jingle Dancer shows that having people to learn from and who can provide support can make a difference in your child's life. Think about how:

- Jenna's family shares the tradition of jingle dancing.
- Jenna recognizes that the jingle dancers in her life are strong, educated and caring women.
- Jenna's relatives encourage her to dance, share their memories and ideas, and give her jingles for her dress.
- These important women help Jenna find a "voice" for her dress as she learns more about her family, her culture and herself.

TRY THIS!



Everyone in your family has a unique role and contributes specific gifts or talents. Make a big deal of that by holding Family Awards nights! Hand out homemade trophies or certificates that recognize the unique qualities and talents that make each member of your family special, and invite each person to make an acceptance speech.

TALK AND ASK YOUR CHILD QUESTIONS AS YOU READ



- ★ Jenna daydreams about jingle dancing. ASK: *Why do you think it is important to Jenna that she gets to dance at the powwow?*
- ★ It will take four rows of jingles to complete Jenna's dress. ASK: *Why does Jenna never ask anyone for more than one row of jingles?*
- ★ Jenna admires the jingle dancers in her life. ASK: *How does Jenna show her respect for these women? How do you show respect for people you admire?*
- ★ Jenna works very hard to jingle dance at the powwow. ASK: *How do you think Jenna feels while she's dancing? How do you think her family feels watching her dance?*

MODELING is an action you can take in your family to provide support for one another. 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.