

# BUILD STRONG FAMILIES WITH STORIES

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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



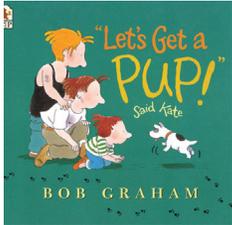
# BUILD STRONG FAMILIES WITH STORIES

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.

A Family Strength in this story is

## NEGOTIATING:

letting your child share in decisions that affect him or her and your relationship.



## “LET’S GET A PUP!” SAID KATE

written and illustrated by Bob Graham

Kate’s family visits the animal shelter to adopt a puppy, but there are so many dogs that need a home. Can they make room in their family for an older dog too?

### THIS STORY MODELS NEGOTIATING



“Let’s Get a Pup!” Said Kate shows how you can build caring and trust by sharing power and letting your child participate in decisions that affect your family builds caring and trust. Think about how:

- When Kate shares her idea to get a dog with her parents, they are enthusiastic and take her idea seriously.
- Kate’s family talks together about what kind of dog they would like and where they should go to find it.
- Kate and her parents look at the different dogs at the shelter and make a decision to take Dave, but not Rosy, home.
- At home, everyone in the family shares their feelings about Rosy, and they decide together that Rosy will also join their family.

TRY THIS!



Talk with your child about thoughtful decision-making when you watch movies or TV shows together. Discuss what the characters do, ask your child what they might have done differently, and explore the consequences of the characters’ choices. With older children, you can also read news articles aloud and seek your child’s opinion about what you read. Ask your child to explain his or her position and offer evidence that supports it.

### TALK AND ASK YOUR CHILD QUESTIONS AS YOU READ



- ★ Kate and her parents talk about her idea to get a dog. ASK: *When you have ideas, who do you like to share them with? What are some of the best ideas you’ve ever had?*
- ★ The family sees many different and unique dogs at the shelter. ASK: *How do they decide which dog to choose? What kind of dog would you choose?*
- ★ At the shelter, the family has three wishes for Rosy. ASK: *Why is it so hard for Kate and her family to leave Rosy behind?*
- ★ The family is happy to have Dave living with them. ASK: *Why do you think the family went back to get Rosy? What would you have done?*

**NEGOTIATING** is an action you can take to share power in your family. Learn more at [www.ParentFurther.com](http://www.ParentFurther.com).



[www.firstbook.org](http://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.