

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.

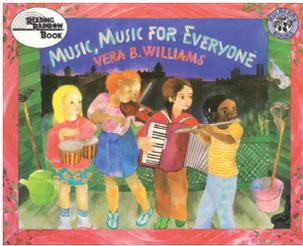
Happy Reading!

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.



MUSIC, MUSIC FOR EVERYONE

written and illustrated by Vera B. Williams

When Rosa sees how much Grandma enjoys the music she and her friends play, she organizes a band to earn money that can help pay for Grandma's medical bills.

THIS STORY MODELS TAPPING COMMUNITY RESOURCES



Music, Music for Everyone is about connecting to your community. The book shows how important it is to have friends and neighbors you can turn to when you need help. Think about how:

- Rosa's friends come over to cheer up Grandma and fill their home with music.
- Rosa's friends know that Rosa's family needs support and eagerly join Rosa in forming the Oak Street Band.
- The band gets help, encouragement and opportunities to play from their families, teachers and neighbors.

TALK AND ASK YOUR CHILD QUESTIONS AS YOU READ



- ★ Rosa is helping to take care of her sick Grandma. ASK: *Who else is caring for Grandma? How are they helping? Who takes care of you when you are sick?*
- ★ Rosa turns to her friends when she needs help starting the band. ASK: *If you had an idea, who would you turn to for help? Why is working with others important?*
- ★ Tell your child about a time when you needed help and explain who gave it to you. ASK: *If you needed help and I wasn't here, who would you ask to help you?*
- ★ Rosa gets lots of support so that she can help her Grandma. ASK: *Who else in Rosa's community helps Rosa? How do you think our community is similar or different from Rosa's?*

TRY THIS!



Let your child know that there are always people who can help. Make a list together of the people they can turn to. It might include grandparents, aunts, uncles, family friends, siblings, cousins and neighbors. Also show your child other places where they can find helpful people, like school, the library, a clinic, the fire and police stations or the hospital.

TAPPING COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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



BE INSPIRED
Disney CITIZENSHIP

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