

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.

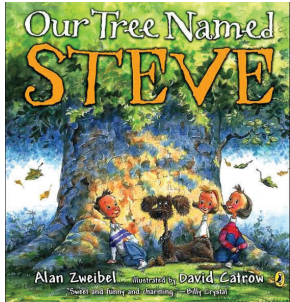
Happy Reading!

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.



OUR TREE NAMED STEVE

by Alan Zweibel; illustrated by David Catrow

Steve, a tree, is so important to the family in the house beside him that they think of him as a friend. Even when a storm knocks Steve down, the family finds they can still count on him.

THIS STORY MODELS BEING DEPENDABLE



Our Tree Named Steve shows the importance of having friends and family your child can count on and trust. Think about how:

- The family makes Steve part of fun family activities, like campouts and parties, all year long.
- Steve adjusts to the needs of the family. He's dependable and always there to help however he can.
- When a storm knocks Steve down, the family finds a way for Steve to continue to be part of their lives.

TALK AND ASK YOUR CHILD QUESTIONS AS YOU READ



- ★ The book is written as a letter. ASK: *Why do you think the father is writing about Steve? How would you share important memories with someone?*
- ★ The family loves Steve. ASK: *What things does the family count on Steve for? What do they count on each other for?*
- ★ Talk with your child about someone who stood with you during a difficult time in your life. ASK: *Who are some people you can count on to help you?*
- ★ The father writes, "Through the years Mom and I have tried to show you, in a world filled with strangers, the peace that comes with having things you can count on..." ASK: *How do the children know they can count on their parents?*

TRY THIS!



Ordinary routines offer great opportunities to show dependability. Help your child become more aware of the support you provide every day by talking about it. You can say things like, "You can count on me to pick you up after school," or "It's time for bed now, because I'm making sure you get enough sleep every night to stay healthy and feel good."

BEING DEPENDABLE is an action you can take in your family to express care for one another. 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.