

# 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.

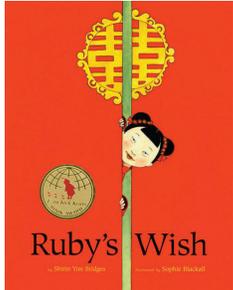
Send these books and reading guides home to families, or use them in your own classroom or program! We hope these resources will help you engage families while empowering them to build upon their own strengths and help their children succeed.

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.



## RUBY'S WISH

by Shirin Yim Bridges; illustrated by Sophie Blackall

At a time in China when most girls are not taught to read and write, Ruby impresses her Grandfather with her desire to learn. He rewards her with both an education and an amazing opportunity.

### THIS STORY MODELS BEING RESPONSIVE



*Ruby's Wish* shows how understanding and adjusting to your child's interests and abilities brings out his or her best. This is one way of sharing power with your child. Think about how:

- Grandfather notices Ruby's talent and interest in learning.
- Ruby tells Grandfather that she loves to learn and that she would rather go to the university than get married.
- Grandfather encourages Ruby to keep studying and makes it possible for her become a university student.
- Grandfather is willing to go against tradition in order to support the needs of his granddaughter.

Make time to observe what your child likes to do and does well. Paying attention will help you learn more about your child's abilities and interests. Talk with your child about his or her passions and goals, and discuss things you can both do to pursue those things. Consider other people or opportunities your child could learn from. Talk about the barriers your child might face and reassure him or her that you'll find a way together to shape and realize his or her dreams.

TRY THIS!



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



- ★ Ruby lives in a house with more than 100 children. ASK: *What do you think it would be like to live in such a large family? How do you think Ruby feels about it?*
- ★ Grandfather hired a teacher for all his grandchildren. ASK: *How does the teacher help Ruby? How does Grandfather help her?*
- ★ Grandfather gives Ruby the acceptance letter from the university. ASK: *What things did Grandfather do to make Ruby's wish come true? What did Ruby do?*
- ★ Tell your child about something you wished for in your life and what you did to make it happen. ASK: *What is something you wish for? What can you do to help make your wish come true?*

**BEING RESPONSIVE** 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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Disney CITIZENSHIP

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