

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



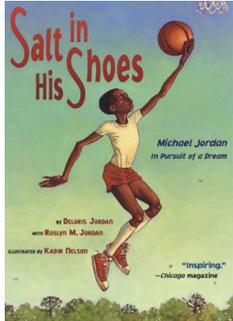
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Family Strengths are actions that **ALL FAMILIES** can take to grow stronger and support a child's success, according to Search Institute research. This guide will help you discuss this story with your child and use it to explore your family's unique strengths.

A Family Strength in this story is

GUIDING:

providing practical assistance and feedback to help your child learn.



SALT IN HIS SHOES: MICHAEL JORDAN IN PURSUIT OF A DREAM

by Deloris Jordan with Roslyn M. Jordan; illustrated by Kadir Nelson

When young Michael Jordan wishes he were taller, his mother tells him to put salt in his shoes to help him grow. The salt doesn't work, but Michael learns that determination and practice are more important than size, both in life and in basketball.

THIS STORY MODELS GUIDING



Salt in His Shoes shows how a child needs caring adults to provide support and give feedback as he or she finds a place in the world. Think about how:

- When Mama notices Michael is disappointed about losing the game, Michael asks her what he can do to grow taller.
- Mama gives Michael guidance and watches over him as he follows her advice.
- When Mama realizes Michael needs more support, she gets his father involved.
- Daddy explains to Michael that he already has the things he needs to be a great player: practice, determination, and giving it his best.

TRY
THIS!



Take a weekly or daily walk together to make time to talk about anything and everything with your child. Head outside and give your child your undivided attention, the chance to ask you questions, and the guidance, support and encouragement to help him or her learn and grow.

TALK AND ASK YOUR CHILD QUESTIONS AS YOU READ



- ★ Michael wants to be the best at basketball. ASK: *Is there anything that you want to be able to do really well? What is something you already do well?*
- ★ Michael's Mama puts salt in his shoes. ASK: *Do you think this will help Michael grow taller? Why? What else might help Michael grow?*
- ★ Michael is disappointed that he's not growing taller, but he does not stop believing he will. ASK: *Why is Michael so patient? Can you tell me about a time when you were waiting for something to happen? Were you patient?*
- ★ Even though he hasn't grown, Michael returns to the court. ASK: *What made him change his mind?*

GUIDING is an action in your family you can take to provide support 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.