

# 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



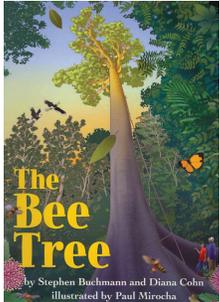
# BUILD STRONG FAMILIES WITH STORIES

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

## STRETCHING:

recognizing your child's ideas and abilities while pushing him or her to strengthen them.



## THE BEE TREE

by Stephen Buchmann and Diana Cohn; illustrated by Paul Mirocha

Nizam isn't sure if he is strong or brave enough to lead the honey hunters of the rainforest, but with his grandfather's support, he is able to do it.

## THIS STORY MODELS STRETCHING



*The Bee Tree* shows what happens when you recognize your child's abilities, yet challenge him or her to continue improving. Think about how:

- Because Nizam has helped with the honey hunt since he was six, Pak Teh believes his grandson will be able to lead the hunt.
- Nizam wants to take his grandfather's place but wonders if he can do it.
- Pak Teh pushes Nizam to practice climbing. He gives his grandson guidance and encouragement to help Nizam reach the honey high in the tree.

TRY THIS!



Plan a family talent night. Have family members select a talent they would like to work on, and give everyone lots of practice time. Have your family share their talents at home on a special night or look for ways to share talents with your community.

## TALK AND ASK YOUR CHILD QUESTIONS AS YOU READ



- ★ Nizam has a special relationship with his grandfather. Tell your child about your own relationships with older relatives. ASK: *What do you like to do with your relatives? What have you learned from them?*
- ★ Pak Teh is getting old and is looking for someone else who can climb the tall tualang tree. ASK: *Why do you think Pak Teh chooses Nizam?*
- ★ Nizam practices climbing because he wants to be the one to climb the tree for the honey. ASK: *What is something you have practiced because you wanted to be better at it? What happened? Did you keep practicing?*
- ★ Nizam feels as tall as the bee tree when his grandfather announces Nizam as a new honey hunter. ASK: *What do you think Nizam is proud of? When have you felt proud of yourself or something you did?*

**STRETCHING** is an action you can take in your family to challenge growth in one another. 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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