

# 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



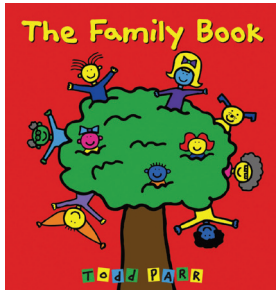
# BUILD STRONG FAMILIES WITH STORIES

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

## BEING WARM:

Letting your child know that you like being together and expressing positive feelings toward him or her.



## THE FAMILY BOOK

written and illustrated by Todd Parr

This simple but powerful book celebrates the things that make a family unique and the love family members have for each other.

## THIS STORY MODELS BEING WARM



*The Family Book* helps kids see that every family is special – including yours! It shows that families come in all shapes and sizes and express care in different ways. Think about how:

- There are lots of different kinds of families.
- Being different from other families is okay and makes your family special.
- No matter what a family looks like, families are made with love.
- Embracing unique qualities helps make a family strong.

TRY  
THIS!



Make your own family book. Your family can work together to assemble photographs and write a story that celebrates your unique family. You might make a book about your family history and traditions, tell a story about a family adventure or create a cookbook of favorite family foods.

## TALK AND ASK YOUR CHILD QUESTIONS AS YOU READ



- ★ There are so many different kinds of families. ASK: *Are any of these families like our family? How are they the same or different?*
- ★ Many families like to hug each other. ASK: *Why do we hug? What are some other things our family does to show love?*
- ★ Talk with your child about different families you and your child know. ASK: *How are our families the same or different? What do you think your life would be like if you had a different family? What things would you miss?*
- ★ Families can help each other be strong. ASK: *What does that mean? How can we help each other be strong? What makes our family special?*

**BEING WARM** is an action you can take in your family to express care for one another. Learn more at [www.ParentFurther.com](http://www.ParentFurther.com).



[www.firstbook.org](http://www.firstbook.org)

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