

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.

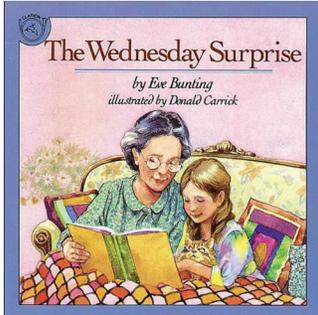
Happy Reading!

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.



THE WEDNESDAY SURPRISE

by **Eve Bunting**; illustrated by **Donald Carrick**

Anna's Dad is having a birthday, and Anna and her grandmother are preparing a very special gift. Dad's big surprise comes when Grandma does something she's never done before - she reads a story to her family. Anna has taught her how to read.

THIS STORY MODELS CELEBRATING MILESTONES



The Wednesday Surprise shows how family celebrations and traditions can become favorite routines and form cherished family memories. Think about how:

- Because Anna's dad is often away, the whole family looks forward to him being home for his birthday.
- Anna and Grandma make a secret plan together and work on Dad's birthday surprise for weeks.
- The family plans a celebration for Dad's birthday to show him how much they care for him.
- Anna and Grandma's surprise gives the family even more to celebrate.
- Anna and her Grandma learn from one another.

TRY THIS!



Encourage closeness by celebrating holidays and recognizing milestones in your child's life, like learning to read or losing a tooth. Make it a family tradition for each family member to contribute something unique to the celebration. Invite your child to invent a new game, make up a family song, create party decorations or invent a delicious new treat.

TALK AND ASK YOUR CHILD QUESTIONS AS YOU READ



- ★ Anna likes surprises. ASK: *Which do you like more: giving surprises or getting surprises? What was the best surprise you ever gave or received?*
- ★ When Anna's father comes home, he brings gifts. ASK: *Why does he bring gifts? What are some reasons people give gifts?*
- ★ Anna's family makes a special dinner for Dad. ASK: *Do you think cooking Dad's favorite foods is a good way to celebrate his birthday? Why? What do you like best about our birthday celebrations?*
- ★ Anna taught Grandma to read. ASK: *Why do you think Grandma didn't know how to read already? Why is her family excited that she can read? Who has been helping you learn to read?*

CELEBRATING MILESTONES is an action you can take in your family to create routines and traditions. 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.