

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



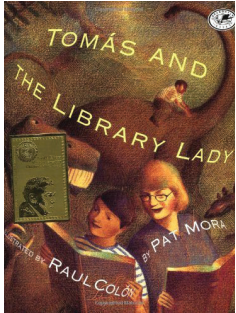
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Family Strengths are actions that **ALL FAMILIES** can take to grow stronger and support a child's success, according to Search Institute research. This guide will help you discuss this story with your child and use it to explore your family's unique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

A Family Strength in this story is

CONNECTING:

introducing your child to people who can help him or her grow.



TOMÁS AND THE LIBRARY LADY

by Pat Mora; illustrated by Raul Colón

Tomás and his family move from place to place, working as migrant farmworkers. In one town his grandfather encourages him to visit the public library, where Tomás learns exciting new stories to share with his family.

THIS STORY MODELS CONNECTING



Tomás and the Library Lady shows how important it is to expand possibilities for your child and find people who can help him or her grow.

Think about how:

- Papá Grande tells stories because they encourage Tomás to think, use his imagination and learn about the world.
- Papá Grande tells Tomás to visit the library because he knows it's a welcoming place where Tomás can find more stories.
- The librarian shows Tomás that she is interested in learning about the things he already knows, and she helps Tomás find exciting new stories.
- Papá Grande encourages Tomás to share what he reads and learns with his family, helping Tomás become a storyteller.

TRY THIS!



Take your family regularly to visit the public library and consider signing your child up for the free clubs, events and activities they offer. Trips to places like libraries, parks, museums, historic sites, gardens or zoos allow your family to go on exciting learning adventures together and tell stories about them afterward.

TALK AND ASK YOUR CHILD QUESTIONS AS YOU READ



- ★ Tomás likes to listen to Papá Grande's stories. ASK: *How do you think the stories make Tomás feel? How do stories make you feel? What kinds of stories do you like best?*
- ★ Papá Grande sends Tomás to the library. ASK: *How does Tomás feel about going to the library? What does he learn from the librarian he meets?*
- ★ Tell your child about a special person who helped you with a problem or encouraged you. ASK: *Who are the people in your life that you might go to for help or encouragement?*
- ★ Tomás shares the stories he reads with his family. ASK: *How does Tomás help his family? How do you share your special talents and interests with the people you care about?*

CONNECTING is an action you can take in your family to expand possibilities 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.