

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



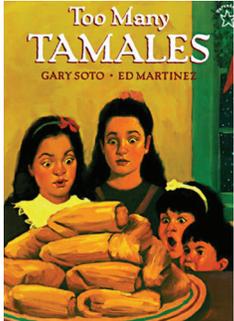
BUILD STRONG FAMILIES WITH STORIES

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.

A Family Strength in this story is

SETTING LIMITS:

holding your child accountable for appropriate boundaries and rules.



TOO MANY TAMALES

by Gary Soto; illustrated by Ed Martinez

While Maria's family makes tamales, a traditional Mexican dish, to eat at Christmas dinner, Maria tries on her mother's diamond ring. When Maria later loses track of the ring, she thinks it must be in one of the cooked tamales.

THIS STORY MODELS SETTING LIMITS



Too Many Tamales is about challenging growth. It shows how rules help your child learn to be responsible for his or her actions and offers a thoughtful approach to handling situations in which a child breaks or tests the limits. Think about how:

- Maria knows she shouldn't wear her mother's ring without her permission.
- When she loses track of the ring, Maria is scared to tell her mother and tries to find the ring with her cousins' help.
- Maria's mother patiently waits until Maria comes to her to confess before revealing she already knew about the ring.
- Once Maria's mother believes that Maria has learned her lesson, she forgives her daughter and laughs with her about what happened.

TRY THIS!



Have family members work in teams to tackle household chores so everyone learns to be accountable for his or her part. For example, have younger family members pick up items around the house while older family members sweep, dust, mop or vacuum. Celebrate together as a family when the whole space is clean!

TALK AND ASK YOUR CHILD QUESTIONS AS YOU READ



- ★ Maria's family is making tamales for Christmas. ASK: *What foods do you like to make and eat on special holidays?*
- ★ Maria loves her mother's ring. ASK: *If you were Maria, would you have put the ring on? Why or why not?*
- ★ Tell your child about a time when you did something you weren't supposed to do and then tried to hide what you did instead of being honest about what happened. ASK: *Have you ever tried to hide something you did? What happened and how did it make you feel?*
- ★ Maria feels very bad about what she did. ASK: *Why do you think she feels like crying even though the ring is no longer missing?*

SETTING LIMITS is an action you can take in your family to challenge growth in one another. Learn more at www.ParentFurther.com.



www.firstbook.org



Discovering what kids need to succeed



BE INSPIRED
Disney CITIZENSHIP

This tipsheet was created by First Book and Search Institute, with generous support from Disney.