

Community Leaders

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is the flagship program of The Dollywood Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Tennessee organization. The Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting FREE books to children from birth to age five. The program is made possible through funding shared by Dolly Parton herself, and local Program Partners in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, and the Republic of Ireland.

Inspired by her father's inability to read and write, Dolly started the Imagination Library in 1995 to serve the children of her hometown in Sevier County, Tennessee. Today, her program spans five countries and gifts over 3 million free, high-quality, age-appropriate books each month to children around the world. There is never a charge to families who participate in the program and it is open to all children under the age of five in geographic areas with operating programs.



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library puts books into the hands and hearts of children across the world.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library partners with local communities to gift one free, age-appropriate, high-quality book each month to children from birth to age five.

These books are personalized with the child's name and mailed directly to their home to create a gifting experience that makes books exciting and shows the child someone is thinking of them.

With support from local funders and partners, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is available to all children, at no cost to the family, regardless of the family's income.

"Reading aloud to children at a young age can positively impact their brain development. When preschool children listen to stories, it activates the areas of their brains that are associated with processing images and narrative comprehension."

- Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

This model helped the Imagination Library receive:

- 🏆 A coveted Best Practice Award from the U.S. Library of Congress for addressing social barriers to literacy
- 🏆 2021 Library of Congress Literary Award, 2022 Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy
- 🏆 2022 Council of Chief State School Officers Distinguished Service Award
- 🏆 2023 Martin Luther King Center Legacy Service in Education Award
- 🏆 2023 American Public Health Presidential Citation
- 🏆 2024 Education of Commission Corporate Award



Scan Me

Supporting Cognitive Development

School Readiness for children from birth to age five

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a dependable partner for educators and local communities. Each book in the Library collection is hand selected to address the child's current development needs. A national panel of experts in the field of early childhood and literacy lend their expert recommendations and advice to select the perfect set of books for hundreds of thousands of children.

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“60% of the kindergartners in neighborhoods where children did poorly in school did not own a single book.”

- Patterns of Book Ownership and Reading, D. Feiteison and Z. Goldstein

1

Foster interactions around book reading

2

Establish positive attitude towards reading

3

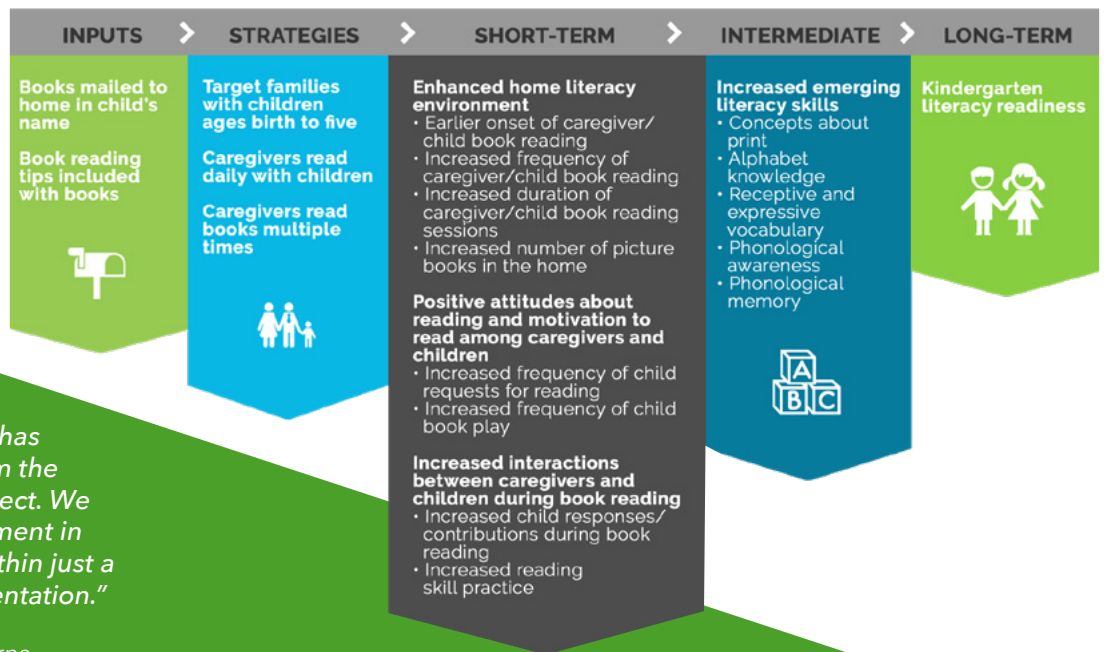
Increase emerging literacy skills

Inspire a Love of Reading

Children cherish the personalized books they receive each month through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL). When parents and caregivers read to their children, it also exposes them to a larger, more diverse vocabulary and greater variety of sentence structures than just talking to them. Children develop concepts of print, alphabetic knowledge, phonological awareness and improved memory-all essential skills leading to school readiness and future academic success

Logic Model

Based on Imagination Library Research Findings and Literature Review



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“Our school district has benefited greatly from the Imagination Library project. We began seeing improvement in kindergarten readiness within just a year or two after implementation.”

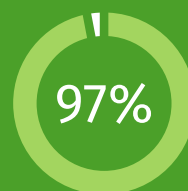
- Superintendent Burns, Arkansas



Families receiving books through DPIL, parents increased their reading with children by 38%.



75% of teachers believed that DPIL graduates performed better in school than their peers.



97% of parents believed that their child will be better prepared for school after having participated in the Imagination Library.

