Dolly Parton believes that if you can read, you can do anything, dream anything, and be anything. Through her Imagination Library program, she wants to ensure all children have books at home, regardless of the environment in which they live.

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library puts books into the hands and hearts of children across the world. We partner with local communities to provide one free, high-quality book each month to our children from birth to age five. These books are selected by early childhood experts to be age-appropriate, personalized with the child’s name and mailed directly to the child’s home. This creates a gifting experience that makes books exciting and encourages families to spend time enjoying books together.

“
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
”

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. Pediatrics – Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics

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 income. 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.
Supporting Cognitive Development

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.

1. Foster interactions around book reading
2. Establish positive attitude towards reading
3. Increase emerging literacy skills

School Readiness for children from birth to age five

**Inspire a Love of Reading**
Children cherish the personalized books they receive each month through Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library (DPLI). 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.

Most of the reading problems faced by today’s adolescents and adults result from problems that might have been avoided or resolved in their early childhood years.

National Research Council

**60% of the kindergarteners in neighborhoods where children did poorly in school did not own a single book.**

Patterns of Book Ownership and Reading, D. Feitelson and Z. Goldstein

**Logic Model**

*Based on Imagination Library Research Findings and Literature Review.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INPUTS</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
<th>SHORT-TERM</th>
<th>INTERMEDIATE</th>
<th>LONG-TERM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Books mailed to home in child’s name</td>
<td>Target families with children ages birth to five</td>
<td>Enhanced home literacy environment</td>
<td>Increased emerging literacy skills</td>
<td>Kindergarten literacy readiness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book sharing guidelines included with books</td>
<td>Caregivers read daily with children</td>
<td>Enhanced frequency of caregiver-child book reading</td>
<td>Concepts about print</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Caregivers read books multiple times</td>
<td>Increased frequency of caregiver-child book reading</td>
<td>Alphabet, knowledge</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Encourage caregivers to ask questions and interact</td>
<td>Increased duration of caregiver-child book reading sessions</td>
<td>Receptive and expressive vocabulary</td>
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<td>Increased number of picture books in the home</td>
<td>Phonological awareness</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Positive attitudes about reading and motivation to read among caregivers and children</td>
<td>Phonological memory</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Increased interactions between caregivers and children during book reading
- Increased child responses/ contributions during book reading
- Increased reading skill practice

**Families receiving books through DPLI, parents increased their reading time with children by 38%**

75% of teachers believed that DPLI 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

2012 Research, Acadiana in Lafayette, LA

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ImaginationLibrary.com