



Reading plays a tremendous role in child development, and when children are read to consistently in the early years it improves vocabulary, contributes to kindergarten readiness, and encourages reading skills. We are committed to giving Flint children the best early childhood experience possible to help mitigate the negative effects of lead exposure. Making reading a priority for children and providing them with easier access to books helps equip them to excel in school.

Flint Kids **read**

Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Grant Strategy:
Family literacy and
parenting skills

Grantee:
Flint Public Library

Grant Award:
\$516,700

Thanks to a grant from the Flint Child Health and Development Fund and the Flint Kids Read Fund, a new program through the Flint Public Library enables children living in Flint to receive free books every month delivered to their home through regular mail. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library book-by-mail program selects age-appropriate books for children from birth to age five, and sends them out each month to children who enroll through the public library.

Mom of three, Tiffany Prewitt, was excited to sign her children up to receive the free books. Since she has three children (Anton, 6 months; Antionna, one; Desire, three) she will receive three different books suited to her children's ages. "I think it's important to read to my kids every day of the week. They take turns sitting on my lap and turning the pages. They don't want to stop reading," Prewitt said she is looking forward to reading her kids stories that she enjoyed as a child, as well as new ones that have been published more recently. Now, she'll have access not only to books at the library, but to all the books her family receives through the mail each month. By the time her youngest child turns five, The Dolly Parton Imagination Library program will have helped the Prewitts (and hundreds of other Flint families) build a home library of more than 120 books.