December 15, 2024

For many of us, we learned a love of reading when we were young. We had a parent or another adult who read to us, and through those stories, we were able to live a thousand different lives, go on adventures, learn new things, and discover amazing facts about the world surrounding us.

For many children, this is not their reality. Access to reading materials can be a challenge for many families due to any number of reasons; perhaps there aren't funds to pay for books or there isn't time to take children to the library. Whatever the reason, access to books is a key component in developing early literacy skills.

Inspired by her father's inability to read and write, **Dolly Parton started the Imagination Library (DPIL**) in 1995 to serve the children of her hometown. Today, this program spans five countries and gives over 3 million free, high-quality, age-appropriate books **each month** to children ages 0-5 around the world. **And after it was discovered that every county surrounding us had a program, except Nevada County, the Rotary Club of Nevada City Foundation took action, and we are excited to announce that DPIL is coming to Nevada County!**



Rotary Club of Nevada City Foundation, P. O. Box 74, Nevada City, CA 95959

Program Highlights:

- One book, per month, per child ages 0-5, completely free to families.
- Bilingual books available for Spanish-speaking households.
- State of California Senate Bill 1183 covers 50% of the program costs, so the cost per child is only $16/child/year.

Program Value and Benefits:

- **Proven** - As the preeminent book-gifting program to young children in the world, the Imagination Library stands upon years of demonstrated success.
- **Inclusive** - Serves all children, families and communities equally regardless of factors such as race , language, economic status, religion, etc.
- **Trustworthy** - Books selected by an expert panel in early childhood literacy for content that is informative, age-appropriate and inspiring.
- **Impactful** - Whether the invaluable time spent reading with a child, or the effects on early childhood literacy factors that have lifelong effects, the Imagination Library has a far-reaching spectrum of impact from the measurable to the immeasurable.
- **No Overhead Costs** - The Dollywood Foundation covers overhead costs associated with making the program available in local communities. With these contributions, local partners are only responsible for the at-cost book and mailing expenses for children registered in our coverage area. ***That means local funds stay local. program partner raised funds go 100% to serving children in their community.***

The Rotary Club of Nevada City Foundation's job as the Local Program Partner is to fundraise, promote, and enroll, but *we cannot do this alone.* This program is for every child aged 0-5 in the whole of Nevada County, which means we will depend on support from community leaders and organizations to make this program sustainable for many years to come.



As we look to the new year, we're filled with hope and determination to reach as many children in our community as possible, but we cannot do this without your support.

How can you help?

To publicly launch this literacy program for Nevada County, DPIL recommends we secure two years of funding. We need to secure $20,000 before we can start enrolling any of the 4,200 children ages 0-5 in our community. The funding for this program will mainly be provided by donations, grants, and contributions from Nevada County service clubs, residents, businesses, and organizations.

- *We would like to offer the opportunity to partner with the Rotary Club of Nevada City as a Founding Sponsor with a matching $5,000 investment to this program.*
- ***Founding Sponsors will be named in perpetuity in all our future mailings, flyers, outreach, promotion, and fundraising efforts***.
- Become a recurring annual sponsor at any level to support program growth and maintenance.
- Encourage other community leaders to communicate the value of DPIL for children and families.
- Help connect us with other potential community partners about financially supporting this program.
- Donations to Rotary Club of Nevada City Foundation may be tax-deductible!

Donate Now to bring ***Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to Nevada County*****.**

Or mail a check to: *Rotary Club of Nevada City Foundation*

P.O. Box 74

Nevada City, CA 95959

Our partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library ensures all Nevada County children can have a great selection of books at home. Thank you for being a champion of literacy, a supporter of dreams, and a beacon of hope for children in Nevada County. Together, we can make a difference, one book at a time.

Please feel free to reach out with questions any time

With heartfelt gratitude,



Andrea Mason

Chair, Youth Services Committee, Nevada City Rotary Club

Dream More, Learn More, Care More, Be More™

Research

Common Outcomes for Imagination Library Programs

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®

Since its founding, The Dollywood Foundation has encouraged research on the Imagination Library program to assess communities' reactions to the program and its impact on children's literacy.

The majority of this research has been implemented by local program partners or local researchers at the local community level to provide formative and summative feedback to support local Dolly Parton's Imagination Library implementations.

> 90% of physical brain development occurs in the first three years of life, when a baby forms over 1 million new neural connections per second.

Scan Me

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The Dollywood Foundation initiated a review of over 20 years of research conducted on Imagination Library programs in the U.S. and Internationally.

The findings from the body of DPIL research indicate the program is extremely popular in the communities where it is implemented and show promise in promoting changes in home literacy environments. children's attitudes toward reading, and early literacy skills.



Richer Home Literacy Environments

- Parents read aloud more to their children and were more comfortable reading as a result of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.
- Parents reported their children owned more books as a result of participating in the program.



Positive Perceptions

- Participating family members were overwhelmingly positive about the program and its impact on their children when asked in questionnaires, interviews, and focus groups.
- Community members, including Imagination Library partners and preschool and kindergarten teachers, also had positive views of the program and its impact on book ownership and literacy practices in homes.
- The positive views of the program and its impacts were present regardless of the demographic characteristics of the community or its participants, and longer program participation often resulted in more positive outcomes.

Improving Attitude and Skills

- Parents believed their children were more interested in reading due to receiving the books each month.
- Participating children were excited when their DPIL books arrived in the mail monthly, addressed specifically to the child.
- Some studies found DPIL had promise with respect to developing children's early literacy skills, as participants had more advanced skills than their classmates who did not participate in the program.



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Logic Model

The Dollywood Foundation is committed to supporting local DPIL programs and communities.



One focus of our recent work has been identifying common outcomes for all DPIL programs. This will ensure we are all on the same page and provide the best program possible for children and families. These research-based outcomes were identified through reviews of literature and are considered to be building blocks for lifelong literacy, supported by the research, and aligned with DPIL's philosophy and goals.

Imagination Library Strives to...

Enhance participants' home literacy environments so that...

- Books are available in homes
- Caregivers begin reading to children early in life
- Caregivers read to children frequently and for increasing amounts of time as they age

Promote positive attitudes and increased motivation to read so....

- Children ask adults to read to them
- Children "play" with books independently

Increase the number of interactions between caregivers and children during reading so...

- Children respond and contribute to book reading
- Children practice reading skills



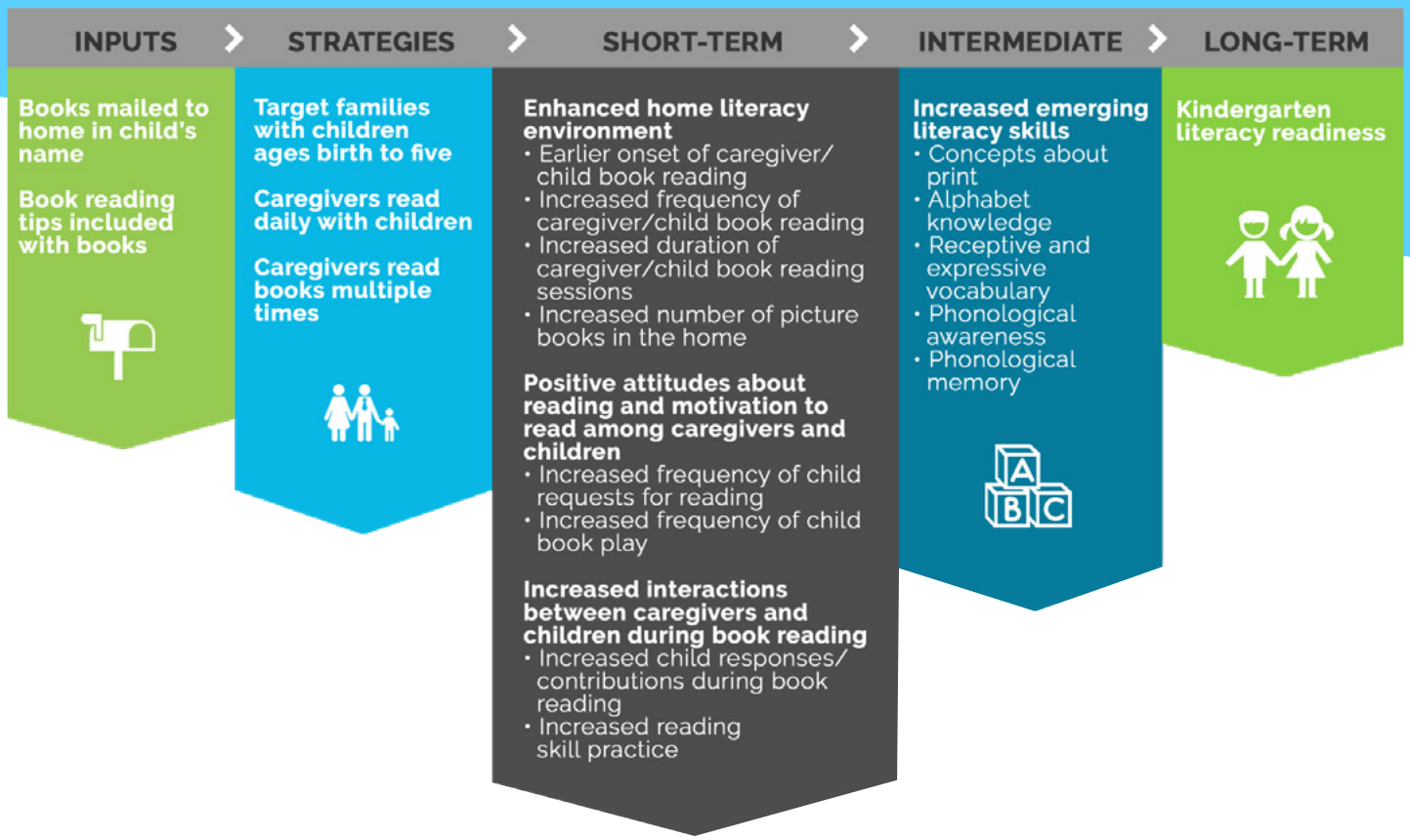
Such that children develop emerging literacy skills including...

- Understanding print conventions
- Naming letters and making letter sounds
- Increasing their vocabulary
- Understanding oral sounds, syllables, and words
- Improving auditory memory

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Logic Model

Based on Imagination Library Research Findings and Literature Review



The Dollywood Foundation is committed to guiding and assisting community-based DPIL programs to provide the best experience for all participants. The Foundation will support both beginning and existing community-based DPIL programs by providing resources to help organizations...

- Become familiar with the research on DPIL and what lessons were learned
- Use The Dollywood Foundation's resources and guidance to communicate effectively with researchers and other community stakeholders
- Provide a security-first process when data is requested

The Foundation looks forward to continuing our work supporting rigorous research on Imagination Library in existing and new DPIL communities. Through this research, we can continue to expand Dolly's vision of ensuring every child is exposed to the magic of books!

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Books & Selection

Inspiring a Love of Books and Reading

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Dolly Parton's Imagination Library books include...



Book-Specific Reading Tips

Most books have Reading Tips that extend the engagement and interaction between the child and caregiver.



Blue Ribbon Selection Seal

Each book is specially selected by a panel of leading childhood literacy experts.



Various Formats

Award-winning books are available in various formats.

- Board Books
- Flexibound
- High-Quality Soft Cover



Bilingual English/Spanish Books

Two bilingual English/Spanish books are included each year in each age group.



New 100% Bilingual Book Option

In select states in the U.S., families have the option to enroll in our bilingual English/Spanish program where every book is bilingual.



Braille Books

Through a partnership with the American Printing House for the Blind, we are able to help provide books to children who are blind or low vision in the U.S.

Scan Me

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Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Book Selection

Imagination Library books are chosen by our Blue Ribbon Selection Committee, and are personalized with the child's name and mailed directly to the child's home to create a gifting experience that makes them feel special.

Select high quality, age appropriate books

Build a home Library of books

Inspire a love of books, shared reading time

The Blue Ribbon Book Selection Committee consists of early childhood professionals who lend their expertise in choosing the perfect set of age-appropriate books for hundreds of thousands of children across the U.S.
To learn more, visit **imaginationlibrary.com**.



From the first book, "The Little Engine That Could" to the last book. "Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!", every book is selected with a special purpose.



"Book day is our absolute favorite mail day!! Seeing her face light up as she gets a new "night night" book is one of my favorite things to see as a parent!"

- Parent

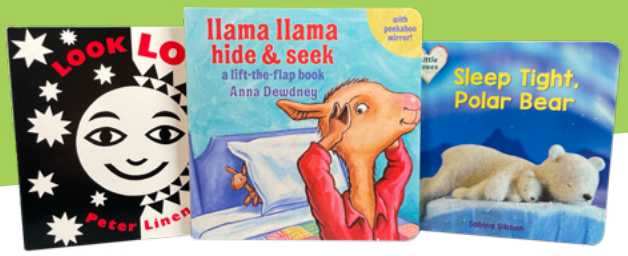
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Main Themes of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Books:

Inspiration & Imagination

Additional Themes:

Love of reading and learning, regard for diversity of people, their roles, culture, and environment, promotion of self- esteem and confidence, appreciation of art and aesthetics.
To learn more, visit **imaginationlibrary.com**





Year One

- Bright, big, colorful
- Rhyme and rhythm
- Minimal text
- Point and say
- Playful sound
- Nurture, Attachment, Lullaby themes

Year Two

- Continue concepts from year one and build upon them
- Repetitive and predictable
- Daily routines
- Real photo illustrations
- Body awareness
- Nursery rhymes
- Colors, Letters, Numbers





Year Three

- Wordless books - build your own story (reader and child)
- Values and character
- Issues: Fear, Conflict, Love, Safety
- Colors, Letters, Numbers
- Nursery rhymes

Year Four

- More complex stories: Hero, Complication, Resolution
- Diversity of others faces, environments - OK to be different
- Play, Humor, Fun
- Nursery rhymes and poetry
- Imagination



Year Five

- School preparation and readiness
- Use rebus (pictures used for words)
- Science-non-fiction
- Thank you, appreciation
- Rhymes and poetry

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