



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Simple. Effective.

Did you know?

- ❖ 1995 – Dolly Parton started Imagination Library in her home county in East Tennessee to honor her father who could not read and to showcase the value of education.
- ❖ 2000 – Imagination Library began a national replication effort.
- ❖ 2025 – Dolly's program operates in 21 statewide programs in the USA and in 5 countries: USA, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, and the Republic of Ireland. It gifts over 3 million high quality, age-appropriate books each month to children around the world.

Did you know?

Several characteristics make Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) unique among all children's reading programs:

- Focuses on **pre-school age children** – birth to 5 years old
- Is available to **every child**- birth to 5, without regard to socio-economic status, helping families create home libraries
- Promotes **adult engagement** through provided interactive literacy activities
- Utilizes the local **community as a stakeholder** for support (*our local Imagination Library of Franklin County organization pays for the books and postage*)

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is designed to help families create home libraries, establish reading routines, and encourage literacy activities.

Did you know?

- ✓ Reading aloud is widely recognized as the single most important activity leading to literacy acquisition.
- ✓ A child's brain grows to 80% of its full size by age 3.
- ✓ In the first few years of life, a child's brain builds 700 connections per second.
- ✓ Reading to a child in an interactive style raises a child's IQ by 6 points.

- ✓ By age 3, children from low-income families hear 30 million fewer words than their more affluent peers.
- ✓ In middle income neighborhoods the book to child ratio is 13-1, compared to 1-300 in low-income neighborhoods.
- ✓ Children with as few as 25 books in the home complete an average of two more years of schooling than those with no books.
- ✓ Vocabulary development by age 3 has been found to predict achievement by third grade.
- ✓ 48% of children in the USA are read to each day.

Did you know?

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library became a statewide program in Indiana in 2023. It increased enrolled children and the state paid ½ the cost of books and postage. The funding for this program is no longer in the state budget. Governor Braun has tasked his wife with locating private funding to fill this void. We are carefully watching and hoping Mrs. Braun is successful. If not...It could have a devastating effect on our Imagination Library of Franklin County—which has been operating successfully for 17 years.

ILFC is self-funded and obtains the money to pay for the monthly book orders and postage for enrolled children in our county from donations from individuals, businesses, and civic organizations, and through grants. Please consider becoming a sustaining donor –a \$30 donation funds one child for one year. Donations can be sent to: Imagination Library of Franklin County, 919 Main Street, Brookville, IN 47012.

*Information for this article came from The Governor's Early Literacy Foundation (of Tennessee) at www.governorsfoundation.org AND An Impact Analysis: Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Tennessee AND November, 2024 The Dollywood Foundation (ImaginationLibrary.com)

Submitted by Imagination Library of Franklin County Board Members