



WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT DOLLY'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is a unique early years book gifting programme that mails a brand new, age-appropriate book to enrolled children every month from birth until five years of age, creating a home library of up to 60 books and instilling a love of books and reading from an early age. Any community in the USA, Canada or UK may replicate the Imagination Library and sponsor the regular gifting of books to every child under five in their community.

At present, over 1300 communities sponsor Dolly's Imagination Library for over 650,000 children. We would like to share with you some of the comments and endorsements we have received over the years from parents, teachers and communities.

TEACHERS AND EARLY YEAR EXPERTS SAY

"The Imagination Library encourages and supports parental involvement in their child's learning from birth to five. Not only does the initiative support the love of books and the development of communication, language and literacy for children and families but it also supports the development of personal, social and emotional aspects of a child and parents well-being which underpin all learning"

Kathy Higson, Early Years Adviser, School Effectiveness Service, Rotherham UK

"I work for the Horry County Memorial Library in South Carolina. I do storytelling at 30 daycares and preschools in rural and urban areas and there is not place where Imagination Library is unrecognized. This program reaches out to kids while their minds are fresh and open to the world of books."

Manuel Vega, Outreach Assistant, South Carolina

"Working in partnership with the Imagination Library to encourage families to read together helps meet the Children's Centres objectives of raising attainment in all young children and closing the gap between children from disadvantaged backgrounds and the rest."

Barbara Nellist, Children's Centre Adviser, Rotherham, UK

"I just recently returned from a home visit and was so impressed that the dad was reading to his two year old daughter, a book which they received from your program. May you know that you are making a difference in one family I know who is receiving books from you."

Lisa Wright, Registered Nurse, Early Intervention Program USA

"I am a Parent Educator for Parents as Teachers through Greenbush in Southeast Kansas. I serve 15 families in Chase County, KS. I just would like to tell you how much my families enjoy being able to receive their Dolly Parton books each month. When I visit my families, one of the first things they always mention is how much they enjoy the books sent to their children. It is always an exciting day when a book arrives."

Sherry Wells, Elmdale, Kansas

"I tell my parents, I can always tell when a kindergarten student enters my room for the first time, whether or not that child has been read to daily. Reading builds vocabulary, comprehension skills, fluency, sentence structure, knowledge, sequencing – and I could go on and on! As a kindergarten teacher, I feel reading is the foundation of our program. The Imagination Library is to be praised for helping the children of East Tennessee prepare for kindergarten."

Teacher, Tennessee

"Through this project children are offered the opportunity of an early start of a lifetime of enjoying books. Imagination Library helps to form the foundations for healthy early development by promoting language skills and inquisitiveness. From a healthy emotional development point of view it enhances positive interactions between children and adults, encouraging learning, play and mutual enjoyment."

Adela Bingham, Senior Educational Psychologist, UK

"This is a wonderful project. We know what a difference high quality books can make to children when they become part of their everyday lives."

Michael Pettavel, Randolph Beresford Children's Centre, London UK

"I cannot thank you enough for this program! By the time the children start school, they are ready to learn about the early elements of literature and print. You don't have to teach them how to hold the book, that print has meaning, or how to 'read the pictures' to tell a story. You also see it in their writing skills – they can plan and create their own stories. I hear, 'But, I don't know what to write!' a lot less often."

Teacher, Tennessee

"Lap time and story reading prior to entering kindergarten is directly related to how well a child will read in the future."

Teacher, TN

COMMUNITY SPONSORS SAY

"We became involved with The Imagination Library when we were setting our district objectives for community services. As we related the program to what Rotary's goals are nationally and world-wide, we felt that the Imagination Library did a wonderful job of promoting those values."

Claire Derome, Rendezvous Rotary Club of Whitehorse, Canada

"As a rural Alabama school, we are constantly looking for ways to bridge the classroom and the home, the Imagination Library will allow the bridge to greater develop. This program will truly benefit our entire community!! We are the first school in the state providing this amazing instructional tool and it has been incredible watching the schools across the state come aboard."

Jeremy Jones, Danville-Neel Elementary School, Alabama

"The members of the Chamber of Commerce have invested in the Imagination Library to inspire and help young people because in Rotherham gaps in literacy at an early age lead to poorer skills and less productive workforces if these gaps are not addressed. The Imagination Library is the business community's investment in our own future."

John Lewis, Rotherham Chamber of Commerce, UK

"We are delighted to be working with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. This project will help children to develop their literacy skills, encourage parents to read and introduce a love of reading. I would urge parents to get along to the Sure Start Centre and sign up to this fantastic scheme."

Councillor Susan Loudon, Wigan Council, UK

"We are delighted to sponsor The Imagination Library. Through Wates Giving we are active supporters of education programmes like this which aim to inspire children and help them to achieve their potential."

Tim Wates, Wates Family Holdings, UK

"As a father, grandfather and a member of the committee that decided to implement the Imagination Library in Cass and Clay Counties, I would like to thank Dolly for making a difference in our area. We have surpassed the expectations and making a difference in the lives of children and their families. It is working!!"

Duane Rindy, United Way, Fargo, N. Dakota

PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND GRANDPARENTS TELL US

"As a father of two young children and the author of several children's books, I believe that The Imagination Library is truly beneficial to families in Canada. Each month a parent and child can read a new book that will contribute to their child's development. There is nothing as important and as precious as that experience."

Evan Solomon, Canada

"Our family loves the Imagination Library - what I am most thankful for is the reminder they provide to read to my little ones... the kids LOVE to see that there's a new book on the coffee table when they come home from daycare. Additionally, this program is not income based and I appreciate that... books are not something I would regularly think to put on my shopping list, and because of budget cuts - our local library is not open at times that are convenient to our dual-working-parent family... so we sincerely appreciate these gifts in our mail"

Kim Parmeter, Duluth, Minnesota

"Reading books in English (rather than Urdu) have helped him to learn two languages."

Anon, UK

"We are so grateful that the Dollywood Foundation is supplying us with the appropriate tools to prepare and to encourage our children to foster a life-long love of reading. My children now look forward to checking the mail for a 'surprise package' from the Imagination Library. They all know the package brings not only a world of imagination, but more importantly, individual and undivided attention from mom or dad, even if it is only for a few minutes."

Joselyn Akana, Hawaii

"As I'm pondering this year about what I'm thankful and grateful for I wanted to give a shout out to Dolly's Imagination Library. My son has been a recipient of your generosity for about three years and as a result has a wonderful library. He absolutely loves reading and when we get a book in the mail, I know we'll be reading that book over and over again until he knows it by heart"

Leanne & Timothy Drone, USA

"My little boy just got his first book. He was so excited but I noticed something: He was much more excited about this book than other books. I believe the hype and excitement really enhanced his desire to get this book. Could we afford to buy him a book or join a book club? Sure. Would it be this exciting? No."

Eric Spears, USA

"On behalf of our 7 month old son, a big thank-you for the books that you send him every month. We live in Rotherham, England, and are lucky to be in the town chosen for your Imagination Library book scheme. Freddie loves his books already at this early stage in his life"

Daniel Blackwell, Rotherham UK.

"Our family would like to thank you so much for this amazing opportunity that we have been given. Each day my kids run to the window when they hear the mail truck and run to the box to see if they have gotten a new book. On the days that new books come, they run inside with HUGE smiles on their faces and run right to the couch and crawl up on my lap and we spend hours reading the new book over and over again. They love that it is theirs to keep and that they can carry it around with them"

The Fletcher Family, USA

"This is a great scheme; we have benefitted so much from having all the books which we otherwise couldn't afford. They are good quality books too".

N Flood, Rotherham UK

"My grand-daughter, Nevaeh, receives books regularly from the Imagination Library. She's not quite two but has already developed a love for books thanks in large part to you and all the others involved in Dolly's program. I am Nevaeh's babysitter and we spend time every day reading. She gets excited when she receives a new book from you and insists on sitting on my lap and reading it several times. Again, thank you and God bless all of you folks involved in this wonderful program, a proud & lucky grandpa".

Lloyd Kerr, Blue Grass, Indiana

"H' was just over three when he started reading, although we had hundreds of books at home, but what inspired him to read was receiving a book through the post with his name on it. We all know how hard it is to get the boys reading, but with help from the Imagination Library 'H' was the only child in his nursery who could read at the age of 3, and he is now a fluent reader. He has excelled in other subject areas as well. In fact his teacher says that she will be recommending him for gifted and talented. In these past two years H has grown into a confident, hardworking little boy and we know that we have the Imagination Library to thank for some of that. The books have sparked his interest in many different subjects. He will be 5 soon and I know that he is going to miss not getting a gift through post anymore."

MJ, Rotherham, UK

"I am the mother of a 8 1/2 month old little boy. I look so forward each month to receiving Chadd's new book, I just can't wait to read it to him. While I was pregnant for Chadd I bought books almost every time that I went shopping. I just couldn't wait to read to him. Chadd was born on January 5th, the day that was the start of a major ice storm, here in Ohio. The following day we received a call at the hospital that our home was on fire as a result of ice build up on the power lines. The fire department did all that they could but we lost everything, including my collection of children's books. So that is why I treasure this new book collection so much. At a very hard time in our lives, sometimes it is the little things that mean so much".

Christine Martin, Columbus Grove, Ohio

"Last year I signed up my son. I wanted to write to you to say a much needed THANK YOU for what your foundation does for families! It is because of you that I see the joy in my son's eyes when he grabs a book or I get one and settle down to read to and with him. Although I cannot understand what he says, they are the most beautiful words ever spoken to me".

Freddie Bailey, Howell, Missouri