

Join The Movement!

Imagine every child in South Central Nebraska having their own library of 60 books by the time they go to Kindergarten!

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a unique opportunity to do something simple and powerful for your community's preschoolers. By inspiring parents to read to their children, we can help them:

Dream More, Learn More, Care More and Be More!

We ask for your support of the program so we can ensure that our community's children will continue to have access to books in years to come!

How Can I Help?

Sponsor a child for a year through a donation of \$30.

Be an advocate - tell your friends, neighbors and coworkers about this exciting program.

Where Can I Donate:

www.unitedwayscne.org

United Way of South Central Nebraska
301 S. Burlington Avenue
Hastings, NE 68901

Phone: (402) 461-8412

Registration:

unitedwayscne.org/imaginationlibrary

*One Child per family



United Way
Of South Central Nebraska



United Way
Of South Central Nebraska



What is Dolly Parton's Imagination Library?

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is all about inspiration and imagination. In 1995, Dolly developed the program so that every preschool child in her hometown of Sevier County, Tennessee would have their own library of books that would encourage in them a love of reading and learning. The program was so successful and generated such interest from across the country that, after much thought, Dolly decided to offer her Imagination Library for replication in any community that will support it.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is an early literacy initiative that provides new, age-appropriate books each month to children birth to age five – FREE of charge. All families in Adams, Clay, Nuckolls and Webster counties with children under the age of five are eligible to enroll in the program, regardless of household income.



Why Begin So Early?

It sounds almost too simple to be true, but by reading regularly with your children during their preschool years, you are giving them the biggest boost toward a successful education they will ever get.

Learning to read is a process much like learning to speak or learning to walk. The process begins at birth. Children associate sounds with emotions. They must learn how a book works - you read left to right and you turn pages. They associate pictures with words. These are all steps along the way to learning to read.

Perhaps even more importantly, they also learn to love to read. Sitting in a loved one's lap, all warm and cozy, develops a powerful association between reading and love.

The key to success in school and beyond is developing proficient reading skills. One of the most important things a parent can do to develop these skills is to read with their child as much as possible.

Facts About Reading and Young People

*35% of children arrive to kindergarten unprepared to learn.

*The average kindergarten student has watched more than 5,000 hours of television, having spent more time in front of the TV than it takes to earn a bachelor's degree (US Department of Education).

*The key is to start at birth. The more words a child hears, the larger the child's vocabulary, and the larger the child's vocabulary, the more likely the child will be a proficient reader.

*According to research, many households have no age-appropriate books available for children. A home without age-appropriate books negatively impacts a child's ability to arrive to school prepared to learn.

*Children develop much of their capacity to learn in the first three years of life, when their brains grow to 90% of their eventual adult weight (1998 Karole study).

