



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library boosts literacy and learning across New Mexico

The New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) is a proud sponsor of **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**, a program dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books to children from birth to age five, free of charge to families.

In New Mexico, the Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments administers Dolly Parton's Imagination Library through **46 local community affiliates**, serving every zip code in all 33 counties. These local affiliates deliver high-quality, age-appropriate books to over **27,300** babies, toddlers and preschoolers, across New Mexico every month from birth to age five. Children can receive up to 60 books by the time they enter kindergarten, including 12 bilingual books in Spanish and English.



Why is this important?

- Brain science and research is clear that children cannot wait until kindergarten to have access and exposure to books and learning. Reading must start early, ideally in the home environment. Reading at home requires books —this is where Dolly's book gifting program comes in!
- Many studies support the idea that the more books there are in the home, the longer a child will stay in school. Further research indicates that children from a literacy-rich environment enter kindergarten with a vocabulary ten times greater than those with few books in their homes and who hear fewer words.
- Parent surveys and research confirm that Imagination Library participants' reading proficiency levels are higher when parents spend more time reading with their children. Reading to children at least six days per week puts them almost a year ahead of those who are not read to at home.
- Imagination Library books in the home lead to increased kindergarten readiness, change in-home literacy environment and significantly stronger reading, math and science achievement outcomes in 3rd grade and beyond.

Register at: imaginationlibrary.com

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code to get
started

