



*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ***

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library is the Only Early-Literacy Book Program with Global, Peer-Reviewed Evidence of Impact

Williamsburg, Virginia (5/14/2026) – QuickStart Children of Virginia (QCV) is pleased to report a groundbreaking international study of 86,000+ families across five countries found that children enrolled in Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library show dramatic gains in early literacy skills after receiving only 10 books.

“Children in the program were at least **4x more likely** to demonstrate stronger emerging literacy skills ... compared to children not in the program.”

“Children enrolled were **9x more likely** to be read to 4 or more days per week.”

Groundbreaking International Study of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Authored by Dr. Claire Galea, United Way Australia's Head of Research

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

Largest dataset in the world on shared book reading.

collected data from over 86k families in five countries.

- Survey included 86,000+ caregivers across five countries (U.S., Canada, U.K., Australia, Republic of Ireland) with children in the Imagination Library program.
- Caregivers completed surveys at baseline, 6 months, and 12 months, after receiving at least 10 books.
- Responses from 18,112 caregivers who completed all three surveys were compared with 37,776 caregivers who had not yet received books.
- Surveys examined the home literacy environment, caregiver, and child reading attitudes, and children's early literacy skills.
- Findings drew from both quantitative and qualitative data related to caregiver demographics and literacy behaviors.

Key Findings

- ##### 1. Closes Literacy Gaps

In all countries, the program was found to have significant impact helping to prevent early literacy gaps that often persist through school.

FACT Research found that after just 10 books, children in the program were at least **4x more likely** to demonstrate stronger emerging literacy skills—such as vocabulary and phonological awareness—compared to children not in the program.
- ##### 2. Strengthens Home Literacy Environments

In all countries, children in the program were read to significantly more often than children not in the program.

FACT Children enrolled were **9x more likely** to be read to 4 or more days per week compared to children not in the program.
- ##### 3. Inspires Reading Globally

In all countries, children in the program were significantly more likely to enjoy books and engage in meaningful reading interactions.

FACT Children in the program were **9x more likely** to be interested in books and **15x more likely** to join in during shared book reading compared to children not in the program.
- ##### 4. Builds Positive Family Reading Habits

In all countries, the Imagination Library was found to significantly encourage family reading and build traditions around reading.

FACT Caregivers around the world in the program were **6x more likely** to count images, **7x more likely** to describe images and **4x more likely** to let the child hold the book compared to caregivers not in the program.

USA Impact

Groundbreaking Study of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library



Children in the US were **11x more likely** to be interested in books and **15x more likely** to join in during shared book reading compared to children not in the program.

Children in the US were nearly **3x more likely** to demonstrate concepts about print compared to children not in the program.

Children in the US were **9x more likely to initiate** shared book reading compared to children not in the program.



Children in the US were **5x more likely** to be interested in reading compared to children not in the program.



Caregivers were **6x more likely** to count images, **8x more likely** to describe images and **5x more likely** to let the child hold the book compared to caregivers not in the program.



***Want to be a great adult?
Play tennis! Read books!
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Be a QuickStart kid!***

QuickStart Tennis of Central Virginia, Inc. (aka QuickStart Children of Virginia) is an all-volunteer, grassroots Community Tennis Association established in 2009 as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization to promote, develop and grow QuickStart Tennis in Virginia for all beginners, especially underserved and at-risk youth, using the kid-sized QuickStart Tennis format. We leverage the fun of tennis to promote lifelong physical activity, healthy eating/lifestyle habits and a love of reading in the communities we serve. We believe early childhood literacy will solve many socioeconomic problems and produce kids who will succeed in school and in life.

Visit QCV at www.quickstartcentral.org and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/quickstartcentral).

For additional information, contact quickstartcentral@comcast.net.



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