

# IMAGINATION LIBRARY

FREE BOOKS DELIVERED TO A CHILD'S HOME EVERY MONTH



## WHAT IS THE IMAGINATION LIBRARY?



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.

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 Susquehanna County with children under the age of five are eligible to enroll in the program, regardless of household income.

## HOW DO I ENROLL A CHILD?

Parents and guardians can enroll children age birth through five in one of the following ways:

- Contact our office at 570-465-3868 or [uwsusqco@yahoo.com](mailto:uwsusqco@yahoo.com)
- By completing a registration form available at the Susquehanna County Library System Locations, or on our website, [UnitedWayofSusquehannaCounty.org](http://UnitedWayofSusquehannaCounty.org).

Children receive their first book within eight to ten weeks after enrollment, and will continue to receive a book each month until the age of five as long as they reside in Susquehanna County.

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- Extensive research on the brain shows that the most critical period for brain development is from birth to age 5, with highest level of activity taking place in first several years
- Children need to receive proper and positive stimuli for healthy brain development
- Children who do NOT receive proper stimuli and suffer neglect have diminished brain capacity as they grow into adults
- A child who has trouble reading in 3rd grade is less likely to graduate from high school.

## HOW CAN I SUPPORT THE IMAGINATION LIBRARY?

There are currently 2,500 children residing in Susquehanna County birth to 5 years.

- You can sponsor a child for \$25 a year (\$2.08 per child / per month which totals \$25 per child for 12 books a year)
- Be an advocate - tell your friends, neighbors and coworkers about this exciting program

## WHAT ARE THE RESULTS?

- Nearly 75% of parents involved in program read more to their children
- This percentage goes up when looking at poverty or low-income households
- These books become the main source of books in the house for more than a third of participating families
- 70+ percent of parents report increased interest by their child in reading

## WHY NOW?

Imagination Library aligns with United Way of Susquehanna County's Community Impact goals of "Helping Children Do Well" – will become an important resource to assure success in school for children and prepare for careers afterwards.

We can prepare our kids for a lifetime of success in reading and learning simply by talking and sharing books together every day in the years before they start school.

*Susquehanna County's first Imagination Library enrollee, Zoie Donahue with Mom, Tonianne Smith.*

