Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book-gifting charity for young children aged 0-5. Dolly was inspired to set up her Imagination Library as a tribute to her father, a smart and hard-working man who was unable to read or write. Dolly wants to guarantee access to books, inspire a lifelong love of reading and help children reach their full potential.

"I remain totally convinced that if we could do one simple thing to inspire kids and adults to learn more, it would be to inspire them to read more.

Thank you for your interest in my Imagination Library programme."





If you have any questions or comments regarding this scheme please do not hesitate to contact Cambridgeshire Virtual School.

You can email the Dolly Parton Imagination Library coordinator, at virtualschool@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

We really hope this scheme helps to encourage all children in care to have a love of books and reading as early as possible, and that you will enjoy reading them with the children in your care.



SC045571 (Scotland)



### How does the Imagination Library work?

All children enrolled in the Imagination Library receive a book in the post every month until their 5th birthday.

Every book is personally addressed to each individual child. All titles in the Imagination Library are published by Penguin Random House and carefully selected by a panel of experts in early childhood literacy and reading.

A child enrolled from birth to their fifth birthday will build their own home library of up to 60 books

Dolly set up the first Imagination Library in 1995 in her hometown in Tennessee. Since then the Dollywood Foundation has sent over 100 million free books to children worldwide, with more than 3 million posted in the UK and counting.

Reading and imparting a love of books is one of the single most important things we can do for our children. Book sharing with a child encourages bonding and development of language, communication and cognitive skills. Books are a fuel for a child's imagination!

#### How is it funded?

The Dollywood Foundation UK (DWF) works with sponsors. Each Imagination Library sponsor funds the books and postage, currently £25 per child, per year. Dolly contributes through DWF for staff, administration of the programme and any other costs.

Completely free for children and their families

# Who sponsors local programmes?

Local and central government, companies big and small, NHS trusts, Rotary, charities, housing associations, private individuals, primary schools. Our sponsors set up Imagination Libraries in entire towns, villages, nurseries... there are even companies offering the Imagination Library to their staff.

Each Imagination Library is as big or small as the sponsor wants to make it.

Imagination Libraries vary in size they can range from ten children to tens of thousands!

## Why is the Imagination Library so effective?

The scale of our programme in terms of duration, frequency and the volume of books - up to 60 - make it unique. Our books are sent directly to a child's home. They are chosen by literacy experts to support developmental milestones and encourage active involvement.



Children and their families love the regularity of our monthly deliveries and they become a family event. Parents and carers tell us that more often than not their child wants the book read to them immediately - not tonight, not tomorrow... right now!

### How do I register?

All children in care in England aged under 5 can receive the Imagination Library books. The programme is administered by your local Virtual School. Contact details are on the back of this leaflet.

The programme for children in care is funded by the charity, Make My Day Better.