

VISION:

In 1995, Dolly Parton launched an exciting new effort, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, to benefit the children of her home county in East Tennessee, USA. Dolly's vision was to foster a love of reading among her county's preschool children and their families by providing them with the gift of a specially selected book each month. By mailing high quality, age-appropriate books directly to their homes, she wanted children to be excited about books and to feel the magic that books can create. Moreover, she could ensure that every child would have books, regardless of their family's income.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE:

Dolly's Imagination Library became so popular that in the year 2000 she announced that she would make the program available for replication to any community that was willing to partner with her to support it locally. Since the initial program launch in the United States, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has gone from just a few dozen books to over 60,000,000 books mailed to children in the United States, into Canada, Australia, and across the proverbial pond into the United Kingdom!

The Imagination Library in Erie County was launched in July 2013 by United Way of Erie County with generous community support from The Erie Community Foundation and other funding and community partners.

Find out more about the Dollywood Foundation at ImaginationLibrary.com



GET TIPS AND OTHER RESOURCES ON PREPARING YOUR CHILDREN FOR SCHOOL BY VISITING UNITEDWAYERIE.ORG.

The Imagination Library is a United Way of Erie County initiative in collaboration with The Erie Community Foundation and other funding and community partners.



United Way of Erie County
420 W 6th Street, Ste 200
Erie, PA 16507
(814) 456-2937



IMAGINATION LIBRARY

A FREE book-a-month program
for ALL children living in
Erie County from birth to age 5





WHAT IS THE IMAGINATION LIBRARY? The Imagination Library is ... FREE!

It sounds almost too simple to be true, but when you **read regularly** with your children during their first years, you are giving them the biggest boost toward a successful education they will ever get!

Each month, a **new**, carefully selected book is mailed in your child's name **directly to your home**. They look forward to new and exciting reading adventures from the Imagination Library until they turn 5 years old, as long as you remain a resident of Erie County. Should your child move outside Erie County, they do exit the program. However, be sure to check the **Dollywood Foundation** website for an Imagination Library in your new community!

The Imagination Library is a FREE gift to our children. All you have to do is read to your children.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

All children in Erie County, Pennsylvania from the day of birth until their 5th birthday are eligible.

WHEN WILL WE RECEIVE BOOKS?

Books begin arriving at your home eight to ten weeks after your completed registration form has been received and continues until your child turns 5 or you move out of Erie County. **If your child's address changes, you must contact United Way of Erie County, (814) 456-2937, in order to continue receiving books.**

READ MORE!

To maximize the impact of the Imagination Library, United Way of Erie County created **Reading Buddies**, a program that **gives parents and other caring adults guidance and tips on early childhood reading**. Developed by local reading specialists, the Reading Buddies program focuses on ways to increase the **love of reading** in young children.

The Reading Buddies program techniques are simple and proven! Parents and caring adults receive helpful tips and information on making the most of reading with their children. This leads to children being prepared for kindergarten and success in school! Children are welcome to attend Reading Buddies events, with activities provided in a separate, supervised area during the adult training.

To find an event near you, check out the Reading Buddies calendar at UnitedWayErie.org/ReadingBuddies.

READING ALOUD MATTERS!

Reading to children at an early age is crucial to developing language skills.

Read to your young children early and frequently. It is never too early to start reading and that is why the Imagination Library **begins at birth!**

Reading with babies and young children affects how many words they know, how they talk and how they learn to read. Research finds that reading to children is important to ensure their success in school and in life. **You should read with your child EVERY DAY!**



PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

IMAGINATION LIBRARY OFFICIAL REGISTRATION FORM

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

1st Child's FULL Name _____

Child's Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____ Gender M F

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

2nd Child's FULL Name _____

Child's Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____ Gender M F

Mailing Address(if different) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Is this child a resident of ERIE COUNTY? Yes No

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Books will be mailed to the address listed above.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY: Date Received _____ / _____ / _____

Privacy Statement: This information will not be used for any purpose other than the Imagination Library.

REGISTER ONLINE AT
UNITEDWAYERIE.ORG/IMAGINATION



Or simply fill out the above form and mail to:
United Way of Erie County
420 W 6th Street, Ste 200
Erie, PA 16507