# Groundbreaking International Study of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

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## 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.

*Galea, Claire Melanie Anita (2025). The Impact of shared book reading on children and their Families: insights from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Macquarie University. Thesis. https://doi.org/10.25949/30123745.v1

# Canada Impact

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Children in Canada were **13x more likely** to be read to 4 or more days per week compared to children not in the program.

Children in Canada were **11x more likely** to initiate shared book reading compared to children not in the program.

Children in Canada were **7x more likely** to demonstrate expressive vocabulary 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.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Canada

*Galea, Claire Melanie Anita (2025). The Impact of shared book reading on children and their Families: insights from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Macquarie University. Thesis. https://doi.org/10.25949/30123745.v1