



# Educators & Community Leaders

Inspire a Love  
of Reading



Dolly Parton believes that if you can read, you can do anything, dream anything, and be anything. Through her Imagination Library program, she wants to ensure all children have books at home, regardless of the environment in which they live.

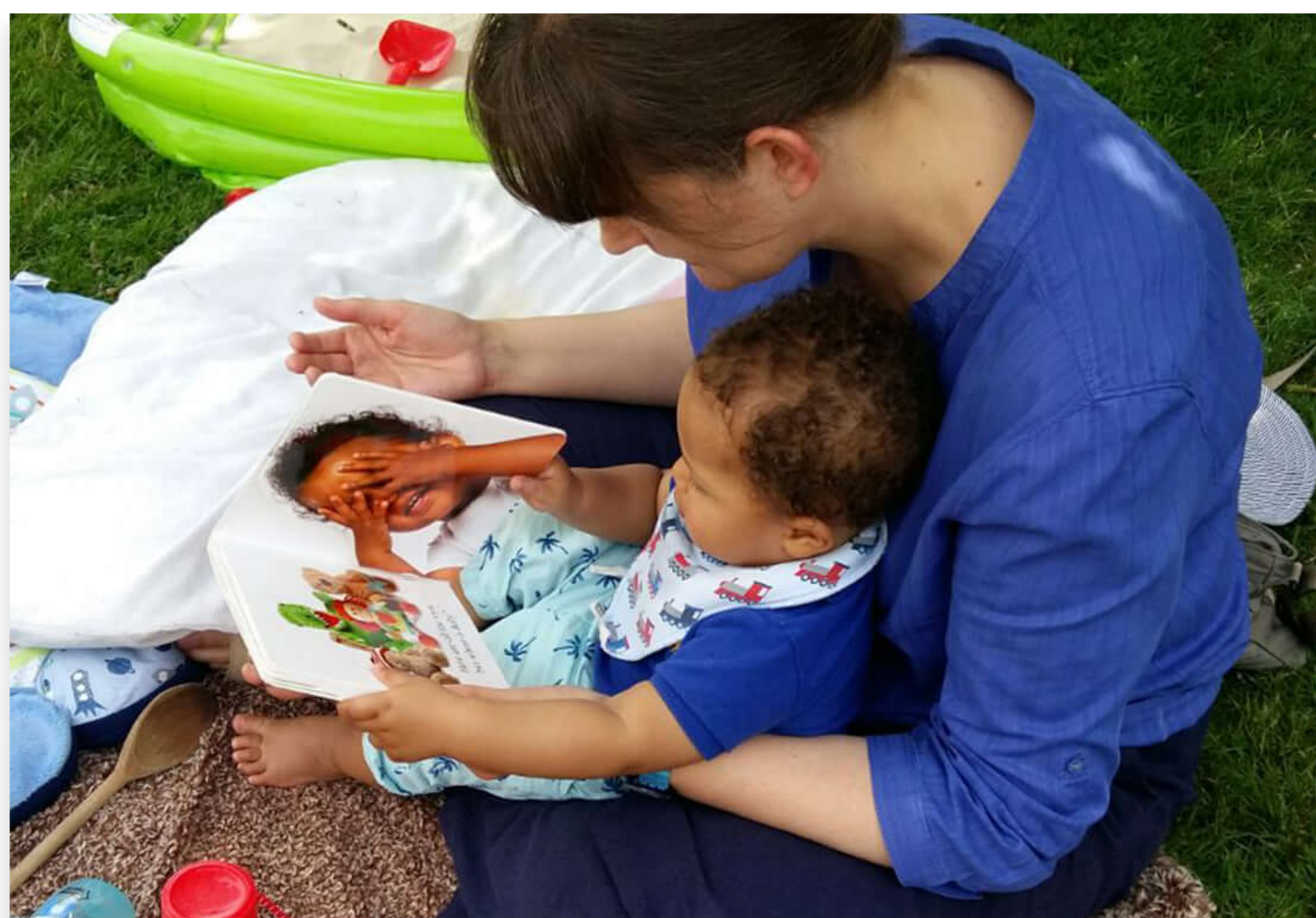
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library puts books into the hands and hearts of children across the world. We partner with local communities to provide one free, high-quality book each month to our children from birth to age five. These books are selected by early childhood experts to be age-appropriate, personalized with the child's name and mailed directly to the child's home. This creates a gifting experience that makes books exciting and encourages families to spend time enjoying books together.

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***Our school district has benefited greatly from the Imagination Library project. We began seeing improvement in kindergarten readiness within just a year or two after implementation.***

*Superintendent Burns, Arkansas*

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Reading aloud to children at a young age can positively impact their brain development: When preschool children listen to stories, it activates the areas of their brains that are associated with processing images and narrative comprehension. *Pediatrics – Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics*

With support from local funders and partners, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is available to all children, at no cost to the family, regardless of income. This model helped the Imagination Library receive a coveted Best Practice Award from the U.S. Library of Congress for addressing social barriers to literacy.



# Supporting Cognitive Development

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a dependable partner for educators and local communities. Each book in the library collection is hand selected to address the child's current development needs. A national panel of experts in the field of early childhood and literacy lend their expert recommendations and advice to select the perfect set of books for hundreds of thousands of children.



**Foster interactions around book reading**



**Establish positive attitude towards reading**



**Increase emerging literacy skills**

## School Readiness for children from birth to age five

### Inspire a Love of Reading

Children cherish the personalized books they receive each month through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL). When parents and caregivers read to their children, it also exposes them to a larger, more diverse vocabulary and greater variety of sentence structures than just talking to them. Children develop concepts of print, alphabetic knowledge, phonological awareness and improved memory—all essential skills leading to school readiness and future academic success.

Reading together is the single most important way to help children get ready to read. Parents can support their child's education and cognitive development by sharing books as part of their everyday routine. Establishing these critical connections and communication pathways helps families prepare young children prior to entering school. Simple tasks such as looking at pictures in the books and reading aloud together not only supports the literacy growth, but also builds a special bond and supports a child's social and emotional development.



Most of the reading problems faced by today's adolescents and adults result from problems that might have been avoided or resolved in their early childhood years.

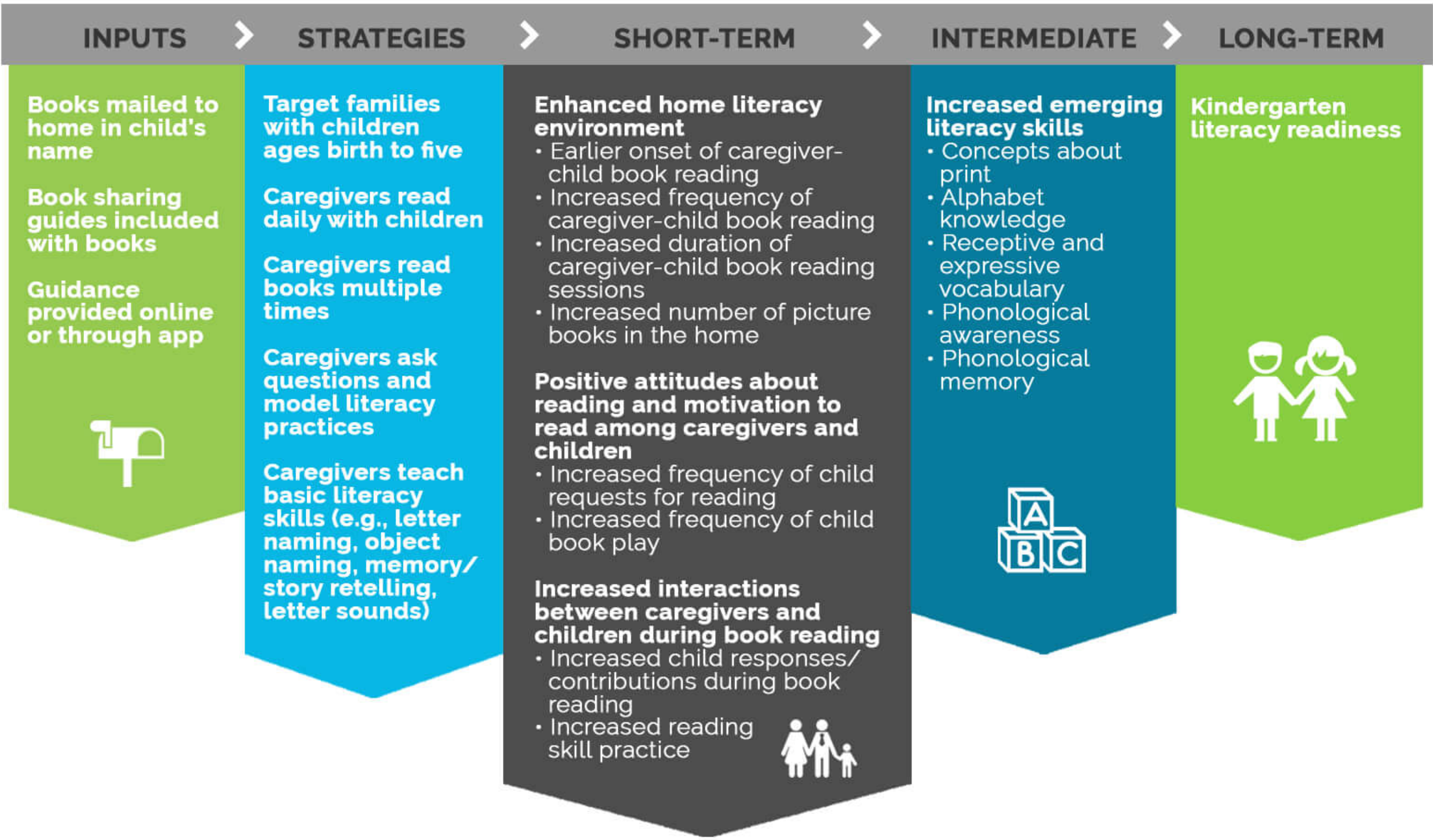
*National Research Council*

**60% of the kindergartners in neighborhoods where children did poorly in school did not own a single book.**

*Patterns of Book Ownership and Reading, D. Feitelson and Z. Goldstein*

### Logic Model

*Based on Imagination Library Research Findings and Literature Review*



Families receiving books through DPIL, parents increased their reading time with children by 38%



75% of teachers believed that DPIL graduates performed better in school than their peers



97% of parents believed that their child will be better prepared for school after having participated in the Imagination Library

*2012 Research, Acadiana in Lafayette, LA*