



## Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Tips

### **Ages birth to 2 years**

Imagination Library has lots of experience with caregivers, children, and reading.

We have learned some things about how to make our program a success.

Now that your child receives DPIL books, we ask you to **do the following three things:**

#### **1 Begin reading to your child immediately.**

It may seem silly to read to very young children, but it will help you bond with your child and establish an important foundation for future learning. The earlier you start, the better the results!

#### **2 Read to your child every day.**

Children who are avid readers were read to every day from a very young age.

Make reading a regular event in your home..

#### **3 Read books multiple times.**

Reading the same book over (and over) reinforces language development and encourages children to participate in the reading activity.

### **A few ideas especially for children ages birth to 2 years.**

Reading to very young children doesn't need to be fancy. Just grab your DPIL book and get started!

**Here are a few suggestions to encourage good reading habits in DPIL's youngest readers:**

#### **Reading = snuggling!**

Read for short periods with your child on your lap or next to you.

Being close to you is likely as important as the reading.

#### **Keep books handy!**

Set up a space to keep your child's books where they will be accessible.

#### **Be flexible!**

Take a break if your child is unhappy or fussy. Read multiple times per day for short periods rather than one longer period if that works better.





## Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Tips Ages 2 to 3 years

Imagination Library has lots of experience with caregivers, children, and reading. We have learned some things about how to make our program a success. We ask all families that receive DPIL books to **do the following three things:**

- 1 Begin reading to your child immediately.**  
It's never too early to start reading to your child.  
Reading to very young children helps develop early literacy skills.
- 2 Read to your child every day.**  
Children who are avid readers were read to every day from a very young age.  
Make reading a regular event in your home.
- 3 Read books multiple times.**  
Reading the same book over (and over) builds vocabulary and encourages children to participate in the reading activity.

### A few ideas especially for children ages 2 to 3 years

Reading to very young children doesn't need to be fancy. Just grab your DPIL book and get started! Here are a few suggestions to encourage good reading habits in DPIL's youngest readers:

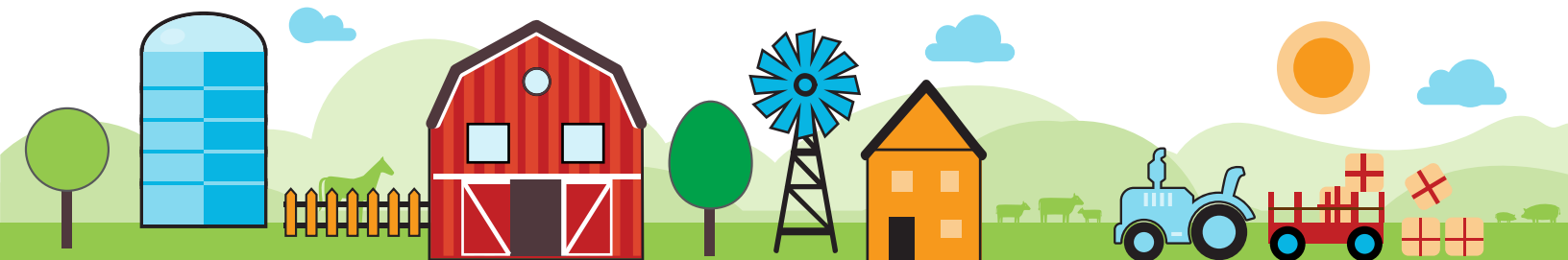
**Ask questions!** Ask your child simple questions about the book.  
Examples: *What was your favorite part of the book? Where did Corduroy go when he explored the store?*

**Notice letters!** Point out letters in the text. Example: Let's find the *m*'s on this page.

**Flip it!** Have your child open the cover and turn the pages of the book while you read.

**Name it!** Ask your child to name items in the pictures before reading the text.

**Chime in!** Encourage your child to "read" with you on familiar books and repetitive text.



# Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Tips

## Ages 3 to 5 years



Imagination Library has lots of experience with caregivers, children, and reading. We have learned some things about how to make our program a success. We ask all families that receive DPIL books to **do the following three things:**

- 1 Continue reading to your child as he/she ages.**  
Children continue to benefit from being read to in the pre-school years, building essential early literacy skills as they grow into readers.
- 2 Read to your child every day.**  
Children who have high interest in reading are read to every day, often by multiple people. Make reading a regular event that everyone participates in.
- 3 Read books multiple times.**  
Reading the same book over (and over) encourages children to participate in the reading activity through contributing to the "reading" and asking questions.

### A few ideas especially for children ages 3 to 5 years

Adding a few things to your reading routine can improve your child's reading readiness and vocabulary skills. **Here are a few suggestions you can try:**

**Think about it!** Ask your child questions about the characters or the story that require predicting, imagining, or making inferences.

Examples: *How do you think Madeline feels right now? If you were Peter Rabbit, what would you do?*

**Make it relevant!** Relate books to your child's life.

Example: *Can you think of a time you were reluctant to try something new like Little Burro?*

**Begin with sounds!** Point out beginning sounds.

Example: *Did you hear a word that started with the same MMMMMM sound as your name?*

**Name it!** Practice letter names. Example: *Name the letters you recognize on the cover of the book.*

**Read it!** Encourage your child to read common words.

Example: *This word, t-h-e, is the. Help me read "the" when you see it in the book.*

**Encourage curiosity!** Respond to your child's questions about letters, numbers, and reading.

