

Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library

**Celebrates 11 Years of Service to Our
Community!**



Annual Report 2024

Our Mission:

The mission of the Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library is to develop the love of reading in all children of this county, by providing an age-appropriate book each month to every child from birth to four years old.

Our Vision:

Imagine the benefits to children and to society if all Montcalm County preschoolers arrived at school loving books and reading.

The Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library premier early childhood book gifting program!

Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library Looks Great at 11 Years Old!

The Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative (MCGSC) is a partnership of community leaders, business owners, charitable and faith-based organizations, health and human service agencies, educators, and parents that come together for the purpose of:

- Promoting awareness and advocating for early childhood issues.
- Address factors that influence school readiness.
- Planning and coordinating community services.

The MCGSC is committed to developing a seamless system that utilizes community resources and supports to help families gain access to tools needed to provide a healthy start for all children.



For more information about the Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library or Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative, visit our website at

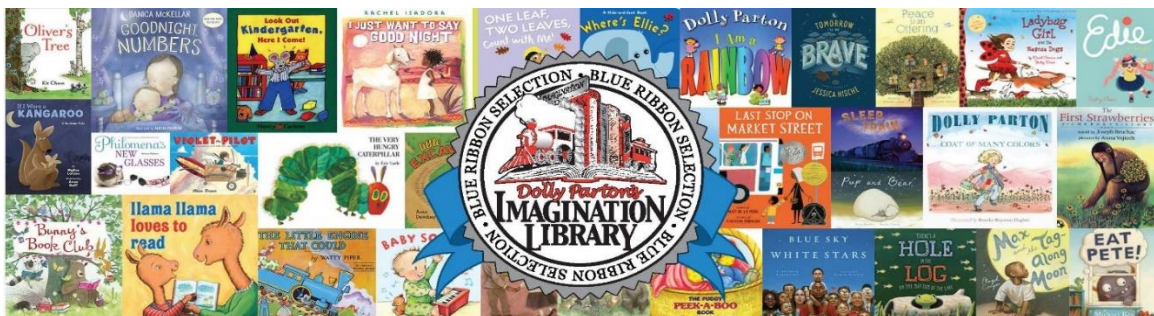
www.GreatStartMontcalm.org or

Facebook: www.facebook.com/montcalmimaginationlibrary and
www.facebook.com/greatstartmontcalmcounty



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Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library Sponsors

- Bowen Insulation
- Builders Glass of Greenville, INC.
- Bush Rental LLC
- Carson City-Crystal Area Schools
- Carson City Correction Facility Boyer Club
- Central Montcalm Community Foundation
- Central Montcalm Public Schools
- Crystal Lions Club
- Danish Sisterhood Society
- Department of Health Human Services Montcalm County
- Edmore Lions Club
- Edmore Women's Club
- EightCAP, INC.
- Entrican Gleaners
- First United Methodist Church of Greenville
- Greenville Area Community Foundation
- Greenville Area Youth Advisory Club
- Greenville Family Dental
- Greenville Lions Club
- Greenville Public Schools
- Greenville Rotary Club
- Heart of West Michigan United Way
- Isabella Bank
- Lakeview Area Community Fund
- Lakeview Community Schools
- Lakeview Family Chiropractors
- L'Image Salon
- Martin Eye Care
- McDonalds of Greenville
- Mersen USA GS Corp- Greenville
- Montabella Community Schools
- Michigan One Community Credit Union
- Montcalm Area Intermediate School District
- Montcalm Care Network
- Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative
- Montcalm County Mom Prom
- Montcalm County Republicans
- Montcalm Wind
- Ninety Degree Nutrition
- Panhandle Area Community Fund
- Our Saviors Lutheran Church of Edmore
- Sidney State Bank
- Stanton Lions Club
- Our Saviors Lutheran Church of Edmore
- Sidney State Bank
- Stanton Lions Club
- Stanton Women's Club
- Target Foundation
- Tri County Area Schools
- Tri County Electric People Fund
- Turk Lake Restaurant and Bar
- United Way of Montcalm and Ionia County
- Vestaburg Community Schools
- We Care for Kids Council
- Wells Photography
- Many Individual Sponsors

**THANK
YOU!**



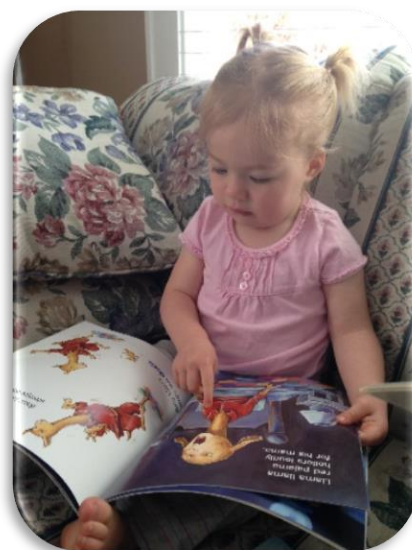
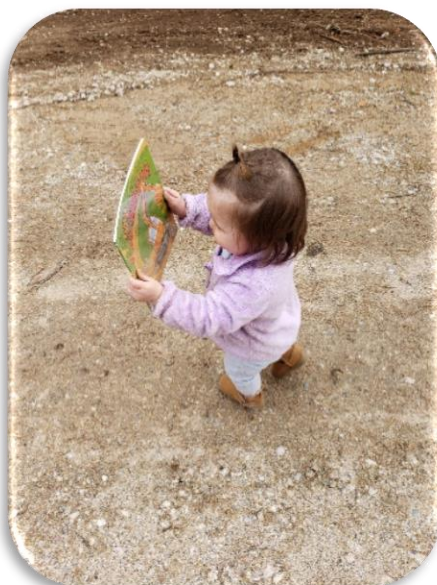
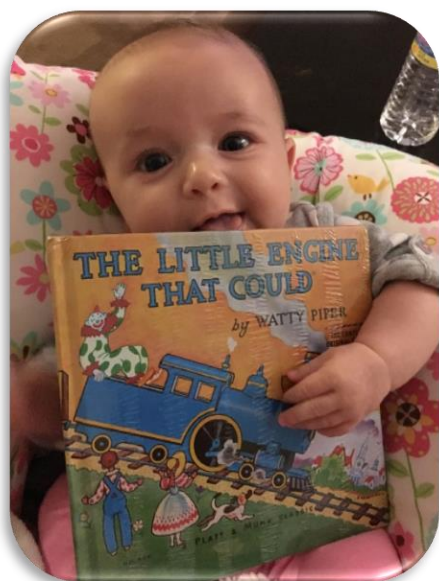
Overview of 2024 Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Highlights:

- 19,852 free Imagination Library books were mailed to Montcalm County preschool children in 2023.
 - Welcome Book- 648
 - Graduation Book- 339
 - Regular- 19,011
 - Number of children served- 2,268
- Since our inception in 2013, the MC DPIL has mailed 147,335 books.
 - Welcome Book- 5,433
 - Graduation Book- 2,800
 - Regular- 139,394
 - Number of children served- 8,112
- According to research, children are now attending preschool better prepared to learn, because they were provided high quality, age-appropriate books during their first years. Parents stated that their child is more prepared to enter preschool, because of their Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library experience.

Challenges:

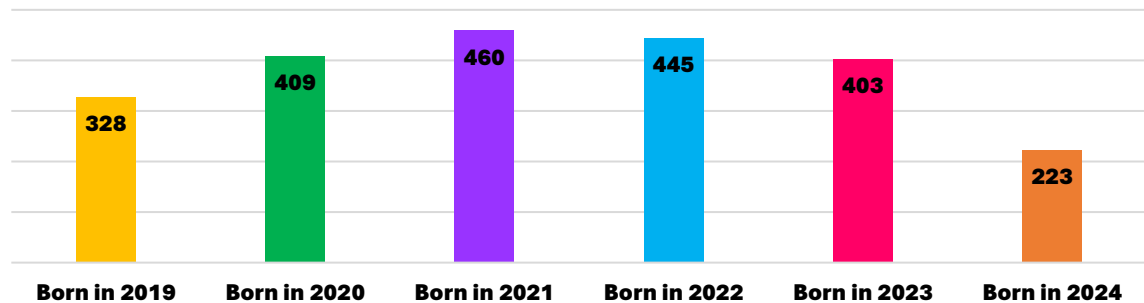
Long term, stable funding is a challenge. The price of the books is \$27.00 per child, per year, or \$2.25 per month. This low cost of \$2.25 per book includes postage and handling. DPIL in Montcalm County is a gift from the community and historically not supported by any one organization or any form of funding, state or federal entities. However, since we mail approximately 1,650 books per month, almost \$45,000 needs to be raised annually through grants, donations and fundraisers, to serve children presently registered. For the 2023-2024 school year, state funds (32p6) were used to support DPIL in Montcalm County. This is the second year, that we have been able to utilize this funding option legislated by the State of Michigan. Each year, we face the challenge to obtain funding needed for this program to continue. We are continuing our partnership with Greenville Area Community Foundation to create a long-term sustainability plan to ensure this community gift could continue for future generations.



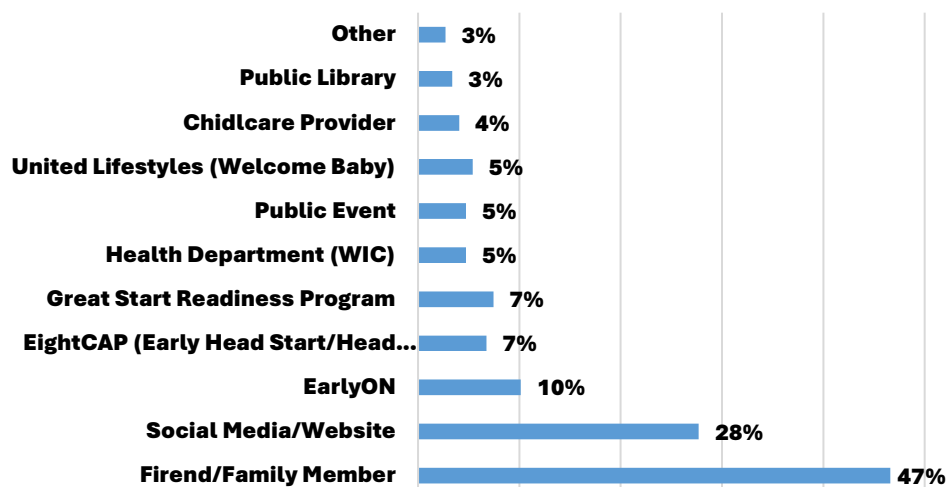
2024 Registration Data/Information

Children are being registered and graduating from the Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library on an ongoing manner. The number of registered children receiving books varies from month to month. Finding ways to reach and register children in the birth-to-age-four age group is a constant effort, conducted primarily by volunteer MCGSC board members, birth to five parents, community service providers, and MCGSC Family Coalition members.

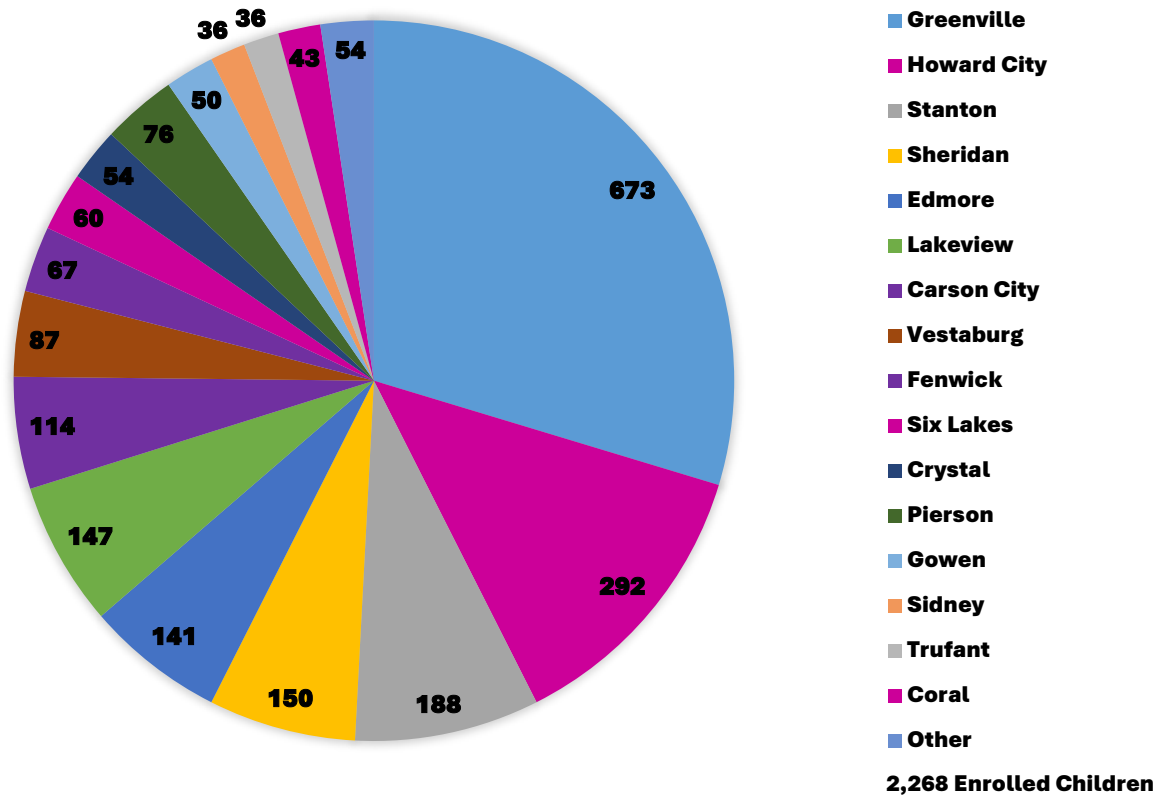
1. *Number of children registered by birth year for 2024: 2,268*



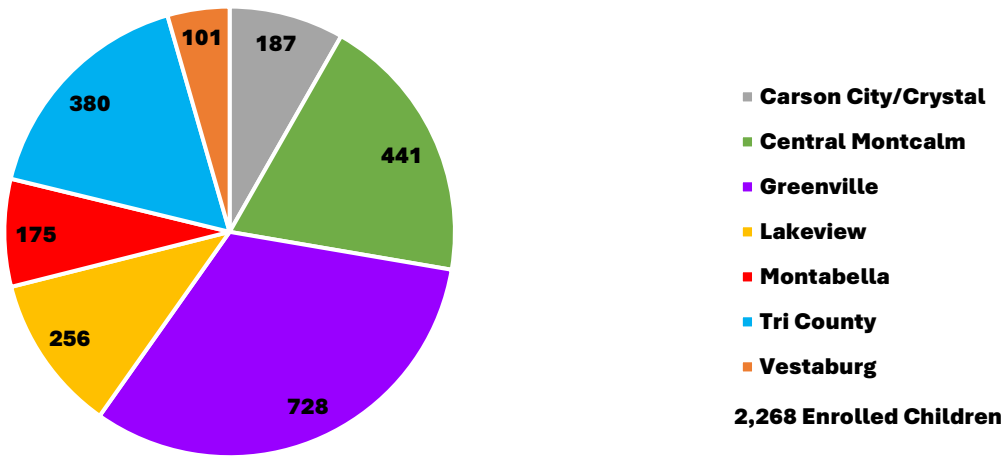
2. *Number of eligible children age birth-4 years of age based on 2023 Kids Count: 3,522.*
3. **We have 64% of the eligible children, enrolled in Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library.**
 - Number of Children enrolled is determined by the amount of funding we have to support Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library.
4. *Registration Brochure Holder locations:* The Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library maintains registration brochure holders throughout the county.
5. We continue to collaborate with partner with Early Head Start, Early On and Welcome Baby to support registrations.
6. During a recent survey with parents, they were asked about how they found out about Dolly Parton Imagination Library, most of them have heard about Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library through a friend or family member! Word of mouth and friends and family continue to be the top recruiter for DPIL participation.



Number of Children Enrolled by Location
Data Pulled 12/29/2024

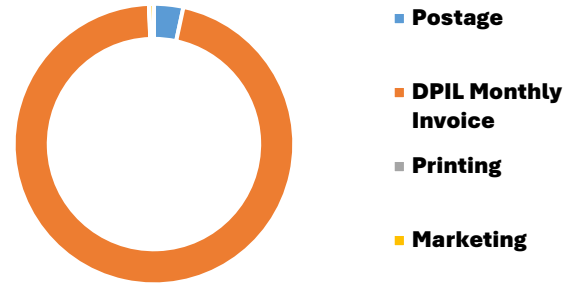


Number of Children Enrolled by School District
Data Pulled 12/29/2024



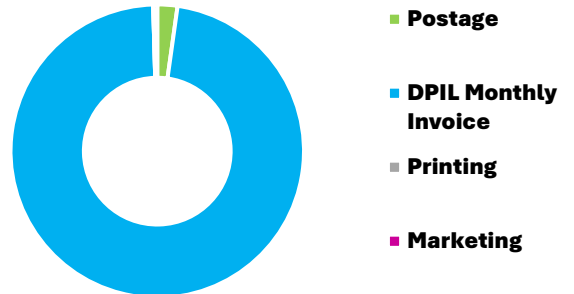
2013-2024 Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library Expenses to Date

Postage	\$10,608	3%
DPIL Monthly Invoice	\$313,250	96%
Printing	\$119	0%
Marketing	\$1,639	1%
Total	\$325,616	100%



2024 Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library Expenses

Postage	\$1,131	3%
DPIL Monthly Invoice	\$43,692	97%
Printing	\$0	0%
Marketing	\$174	0%
Total	\$44,997	100%



Explanatory Notes for 2024:

- ❖ 97% of all funds were used to purchase the 19,852 Imagination Library books that were mailed out in 2024. The local cost is \$2.25 per book, which covers the book, postage, and handling. This low cost is possible because of matching funds from the Governor's Books from Birth Foundation and by special arrangements with publishers made by the Dollywood Foundation.
- ❖ *Undelivered Books/Postage: Books that are unable to be mailed to the address located on the book or forwarded to a current address are sent back to the post office and held until we can pick up the undelivered books. When picked up, the US Post Office requires that we pay for the return postage. These returned books are provided to Montcalm County families throughout the year via, Playgroup, Welcome Baby and various MCGSC family coalition activities.*
- ❖ **Marketing:** In previous years we have purchased brochures, bookmarks, and stickers to promote at county community events, this past year we ran ads in our local newspaper (Daily News Paper), promoting Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library program and thanking our donors for their ongoing support for 11 year of DPIL service to our birth to 5 children.

2013-2024 MC DPIL Income to Date

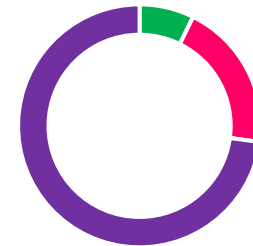
Individual Donors	\$17,599	5%
Business Donors	\$21,868	7%
Non-Profit Donors	\$23,626	7%
Grants	\$127,545	39%
Schools	\$134,305	41%
Total Income	\$329,943	100%



■ Individual Donors ■ Business Donors
■ Non-profit Donors ■ Grants
■ Schools

2024 MC DPIL Income

Individual Donors	\$865	7%
Business Donors	\$ -	0%
Non-Profit Donors	\$2,360	20%
Grants	\$ -	0%
Schools	\$8,661	73%
Total Income	\$11,886	100%



■ Individual Donors ■ Business Donors
■ Non-profit Donors ■ Grants
■ Schools

Explanatory Notes for 2024:

- ❖ **Individual Donors** - Revenue that comes from direct donations by individuals
- ❖ **Grants** - Income that came because of written grants.
- ❖ **Business Donors** - Direct business donations. **Refer to page three, for list of donors.**
- ❖ **Non-Profit Donors** - Community clubs and societies
- ❖ **Schools** - EightCAP, Inc., and all 7 local school districts within the MAISD
- ❖ ***Annual cost for Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library is \$45,000 to serve current children registered, if we are serving 2,1300 children.**
- ❖ **32p6** – funding legislated by the State of Michigan to support cost of book distribution.



Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library Endowment Fund

Greenville Area Community Foundation

Statement Summary 01/2024 – 12/31/2024

Historic Gifts or Corpus	\$32,843
Available to Spend this Year	\$13.07
Beginning Fund Balance-	\$38,842.30
Contributions	\$12,195
Pledges	\$0
Interest and Dividend Income	\$2,964.01
Appreciation of Assets	\$2,339.64
Interfund Gifts	\$0
Total Revenue	\$17,498.65
Grants Authorized	\$0
Administrative Fees	(\$557.94)
Total Expenses	(\$557.94)
Ending Balance 12/31/24	\$55,783.01

Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library started a partnership with Greenville Area Community Foundation to establish an endowment fund on April 16, 2019, to support Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library for years to come. We need to transition from ongoing fund raising to a long-term sustainable funding option.

Thank you to Greenville Area Community Foundation for this continued support in establishing Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library for future generations. Long term funding goal is for the fund to financially support monthly billing for DPIL book services.



We need your help to continue this wonderful gift to young children in Montcalm County!

Parent Survey 2024 Results:

151 Parents completed the annual Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library survey

Table 1 below shows that 64% of parents reported that Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library increased their children's interest in reading or looking at books by "a lot." 56% of parents reported an increase in the amount of time parents have spent with their child.

Table 1: Change in Literacy Activity

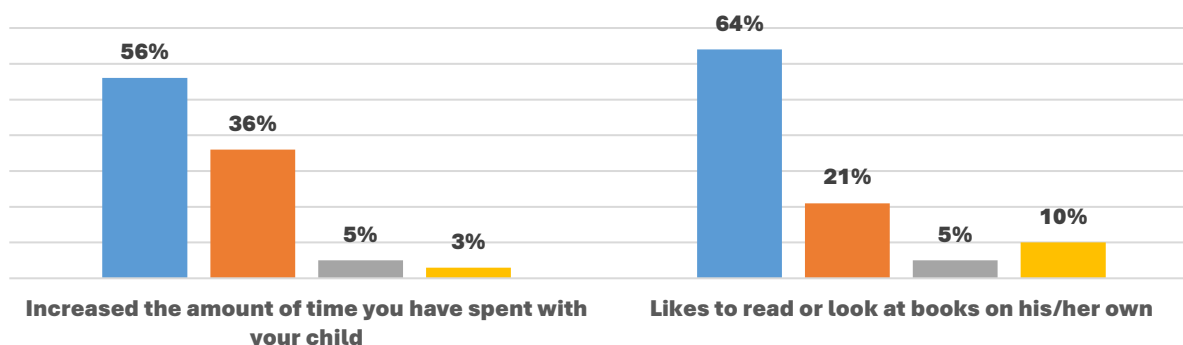
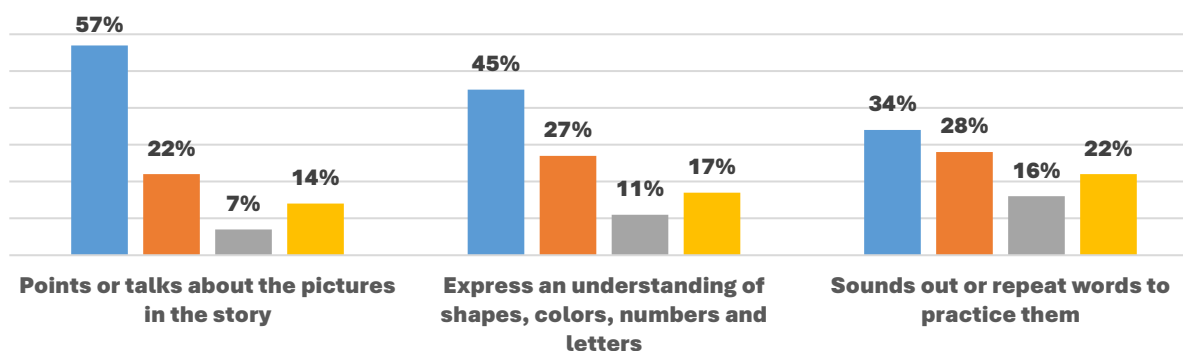


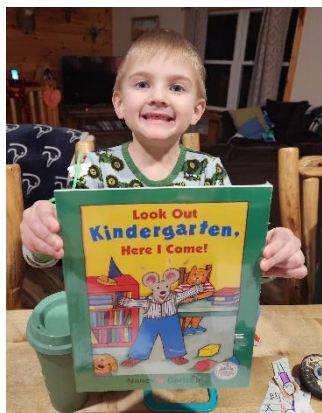
Table 2 shows that children receiving Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library books are supporting children to learn to read at an early age. According to parents, Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library participating children have greater general knowledge, have expanded their vocabulary, and become readers that are more fluent. Research tells us that early readers can recognize a larger number of words by sight, which enables them to learn more from and about their environment. Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library supports our children in this learning process!

Table 2: Change in Early Learning Skills



Parents are their child's first and best teacher; therefore, providing tools to parents that encourages them to talk, read and sing with their child every day is critical. Even parents with poor literacy skills want to raise readers and Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library helps support them in their efforts to teach their child basics of how to hold a book correctly.

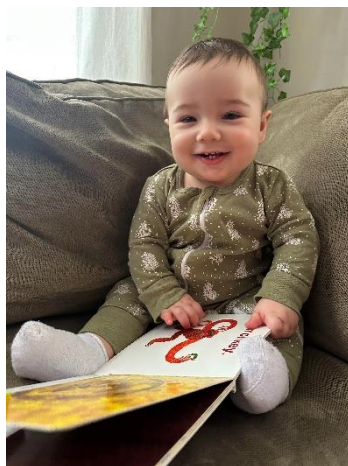
Quotes 2024 Montcalm County Imagination Library participants:



"I love this program so much! My toddler loves the books (especially Ice Cream Face) and knows several by heart! The ones she doesn't know, she makes up words to. It's incredible! And she gets excited when she sees Dolly Parton's face on the back of some of the books (and calls her by name)."

"Thanks to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, my child's love for reading has blossomed. Each book received is not just a story, but a gateway to imagination and learning, creating cherished moments that will last a lifetime."

"This program is amazing, I first heard about it when my oldest was 3 months old and we have loved every book we've received! He gets very excited when a new book is in the mail and cannot wait to open it up and read it!"



"My son likes to gather 2-4 of his favorite books and brings them to me and we have little reading sessions. These sessions have enriched both of our lives. I am beyond thankful for this program. Thank you."

"My daughter gets excited when a new book gets delivered to her, and for her to keep. We utilize our public library but it's nice that the mailed books don't have to be returned."

"This has not only helped my younger child be more interested in reading, but he wants his older brothers to read as well and has helped them in the process."

"I have participated in this program for my last 5 kids. All of them are book worms now. Books are a part of life for them now because this program made them excited for books. I wish this program had an app to go with it for more learning fun that goes with their books."



"The books have been interactive, and learning based."

"Having books mailed is very convenient with a parent who doesn't have access to getting their child to a library. My son loves and is excited for every new book that he receives. I am excited that it also has some books that are bilingual so that we can teach our children multiple languages."



"My daughter loves to read each night before bed so let her pick out the books and sit and read together. She recently got Corduroy, and we have read it at least 6 times. It is her new favorite."

"This program is amazing, I first heard about it when my oldest was 3 months old and we have loved every book we've received! He gets very excited when a new book is in the mail and cannot wait to open it up and read it!"

"My child absolutely loves getting a new book in the mail every month! Children's books are so expensive and are just not something we can afford right now. I love that the Dolly Parton Imagination Library exists. It's been a huge blessing."



Make a tax-deductible donation to encourage the love of reading! Support the Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program!

Dolly Parton Imagination Library is available in Montcalm County, for children ages 0-4. Children will receive a free book in the mail each month until their 5th birthday.

This program helps children start their own personal library, and encourages a love of reading. More than any other skill the ability to read helps a child to succeed in school, function in society and have more employment options in the future.

It costs \$32 annually to sponsor a child. There are approximately 4,296 children ages 0-5 in Montcalm County!

By investing, we believe we are building tomorrow's workforce, by building readers.

If you are interested in sponsoring a child, making a donation or becoming a program champion please contact: Mindy Train

Donations can be made online at <https://gacfmi.org> or mailed to:

Mindy Train
618 W Main St, Suite C
Stanton, MI 48888
mtrain@maisd.com or 616-225-6150



FREE TO ALL
CHILDREN AGES
0-5 IN MAISD



INSPIRING
A LOVE
OF READING



LET'S TALK ABOUT DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY



MONTHLY FREE
BOOK DELIVERIES



HIGH QUALITY,
AGE-APPROPRIATE
BOOKS

Aa
Bb Cc



TALKING IS TEACHING.ORG



TALKING IS
TEACHING.

TALK
READ
SING