

JANUARY Newsletter



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Grows Fast

Since SELF launched Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Clark, Skamania and Klickitat counties in September of 2021, over 6,000 children, age birth to five, have signed up to receive a free book each month. That's over 57,000 books distributed since we launched! Isn't that amazing!

It starts with "The Little Engine that Could," and ends with "Look Out, Kindergarten, Here I Come!" In between are such titles as "Baby Sounds," "Llama, Llama, Red Pajama," and "Corduroy," each book geared to the child's age.

This is all made possible by donors like the Ed and Dollie Lynch Fund who understand the benefits of reading for young children. For just \$50, you could help four children receive a book each month for a year. We are grateful for donors who know that kids thrive who read early and often.

To donate to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, or to sign up your child, click the button below.

[Learn More](#)

Partnerships with Purpose

The Southwest Washington Child Care Partnership (SWCCP) has in the last two years successfully planned and implemented a community-based strategy to reinvent child care within the Latinx community in Vancouver. The child care opportunities are expanding to include Vancouver Housing Authority residents. In the last year five new bilingual bicultural family child care businesses were licensed representing 34 new slots, with several more preparing to obtain their license. At the heart of this project is community partnerships which we continue to expand, including the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, Contractors Association, Fourth Plain Forward, Educational Service District 112 and Riverview Credit Union.

We are proud to announce that a new child care business just opened! Mayra Campos is the owner of Happy Little Ones. She opened her business in December 2022. Mayra will provide bilingual child care for children in our community! We are so proud of her hard work and dedication!

[DONATE](#)

Calling all Data Nerds!

Coming Soon! The State of the Children Report.

Research and data play critical roles in identifying and elevating the needs of children and families in Washington state. Our dream is that all children have a chance for a great start in life. We believe that they deserve access to high-quality basics of health, education, nurturing, and love.

Research has shown that investing in high-quality early child care and education does more than provide a strong foundation for young learners. The 'spillover' effects of investing in children at an early age have been linked to a stronger economy, increased caregiver job stability, and a reduction in the cost for special education, healthcare, and criminal justice spending later in life.

Be on the lookout for this new report with updated statistics and data related to the children in our community! We will share this information as soon as it becomes available.

All Aboard for Fun

Looking for something fun to do with your kiddos? Look no further. Columbia Play Project has an exciting lineup of innovative activities and events to spark your little one's creativity and love of learning as you welcome in the new year.

Saturday, February 25

Wiggles & Giggles: Ants Ants Ants
Kiggins Theater 1011 Main St. Vancouver
10 am - 11 am

Saturday, March 18

Wiggles and Giggles: JW Magic
Kiggins Theater 1011 Main St. Vancouver
10 am - 11 am

Saturday, April 15

Wiggles & Giggles: Red Yarn
Kiggins Theater
10 am - 11 am

[Buy Tickets](#)

Say What?!?

Did you know? As a result of child care problems, 63% of working parents have left work earlier than normal, 56% of working parents have been late for work, 55% of working parents have missed a full day of work, and 54% of working parents have reported being distracted at work, according to data published by Ready Nation.