



NOVEMBER Newsletter



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Grows Fast

Since SELF launched Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Clark, Skamania and Klickitat counties in September, nearly 2,000 children, age birth to five, have signed up to receive a free hard-cover book each month.

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 who understand the benefits of reading for young children. For just \$25 for one year, you can open worlds to a child with 12 well-chosen books. We are grateful for donors who know that kids thrive who read early and often.

Kids who read a lot (or are read to) become better readers.

Reading exercises the brain.

Reading improves concentration.

Reading teaches children about the world around them.

Reading increases a child's vocabulary and leads to more highly-developed language skills.

Reading helps kids develop empathy.

Reading expands a child's imagination.

Reading leads to more success in school.

Reading is entertaining.

Reading relaxes the body and calms the mind. When a young child is being read to, snuggles happen!

To donate to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, or to sign up your child, [click here](#).

With Gratitude,

Debbie Ham
Executive Director

Fair Start for Kids Act Already Helping Families

The Fair Start for Kids Act, passed by the Washington legislature last spring, is already making a difference for families and child care providers. A quick overview of what the act can do for you comes from Child Care Aware. [Click here for details](#).

For families with young children, the Fair Start for Kids Act: Increases the number of families who qualify for financial assistance to pay for child care by raising income eligibility limits starting October 1, 2021. The new limits will be tied to the state

median income instead of the federal poverty level. This means that families of four can earn up to \$5,139 per month (60% of the state median income) and qualify for help.

Reduces family child care copays starting October 1, 2021 through 2022 to up to \$115 per month. Some families will pay less. Starting in 2023, family child care copays will be capped at 7% of income.

Increases the number of facilitated play and learn groups available for caregivers of young children.

Provides increased funding to child care programs and state-funded preschool programs (ECEAP) to better serve families experiencing low incomes, dual-language families and children with unique needs.

Funds infant-to-early childhood mental health consultation services for child care providers and the children and families they serve.

For child care providers, the Fair Start for Kids Act: Raised the amount of money providers earn when they serve families who rely on state child care subsidies to 85% of market rates starting July 1, 2021.

Funds grants for child care programs that help them recover from the pandemic and keep their doors open.

Provides funding for programs to provide trauma-informed care.

Funds health insurance for child care providers. (Most child care small businesses cannot afford to offer health insurance to their staff.)

Increases earnings for programs that offer dual-language child care.

Increases earnings for programs that provide infant care.

For complete, in-depth details about the benefits of the Fair Start for Kids Act, visit the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families [online here](#). To view a timeline on when different parts of the Fair Start for Kids Act become effective, [click here](#).

Imagine the Gift of Reading

Imagine every child having the opportunity to receive a book each month. Imagine the joy that would bring. Imagine the thrill of exploring new adventures by reading a new book. By donating to SELF this holiday season you can make this wish come true for local children in Southwest Washington. SELF is now a Dolly Parton's Imagination Library affiliate. By donating you will provide age-appropriate, high-quality books that are mailed each month to enrolled children, birth to age five, at no cost to families in our community.

We are beyond thrilled to watch our partnership grow with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Imagine the possibilities. Please join us in helping every child in our community thrive. [Click here](#) for more details.

DONATE

