

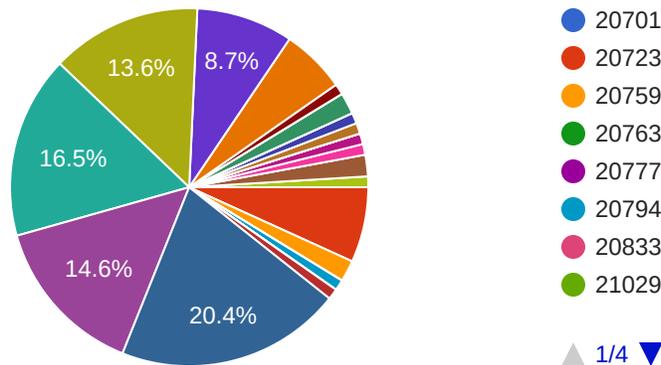
Imagination Library / Read With Me Howard County Family Participation Survey

103 responses

What is your Howard County home zip code:

[Copy](#)

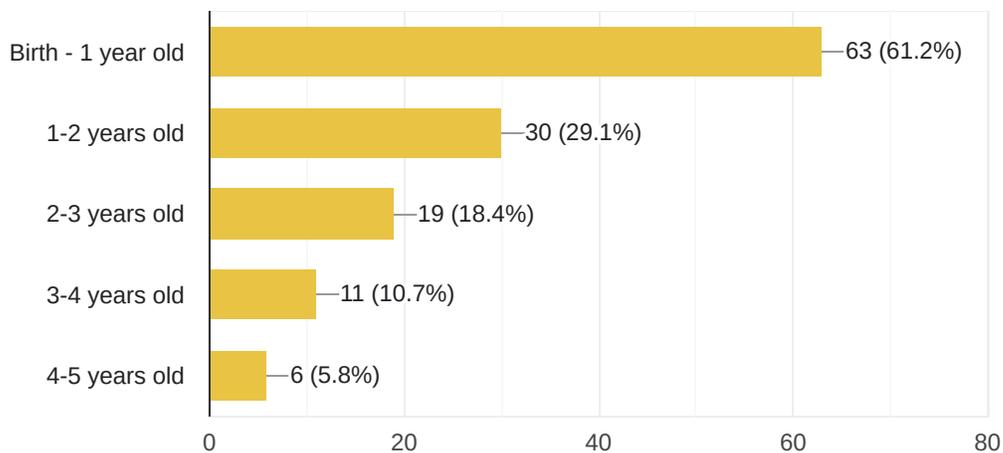
103 responses



What age was your child(ren) when they enrolled in the program? If you have multiple children enrolled, please select all that apply.

[Copy](#)

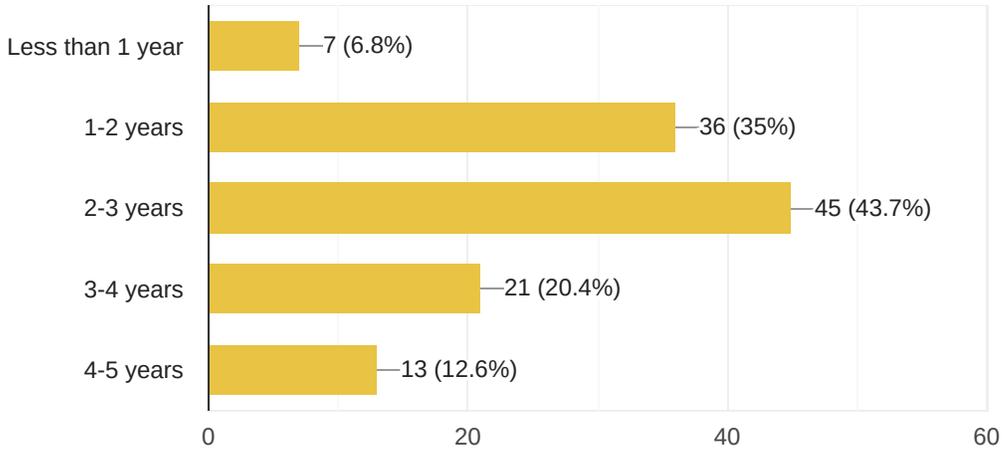
103 responses



For how long did your child(ren) receive Imagination Library books through the program? If you have multiple children enrolled, please select all that apply.



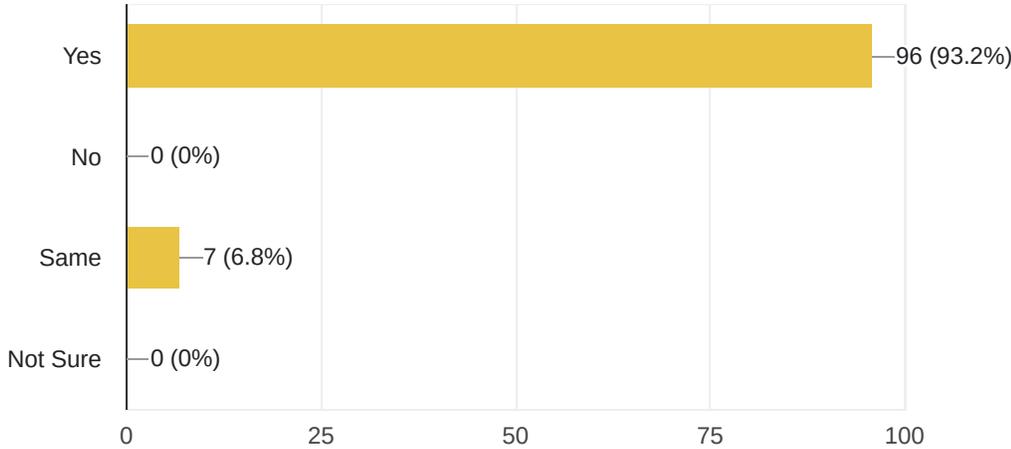
103 responses



After participating in the program, my child(ren) have access to more age-appropriate picture books in our home.



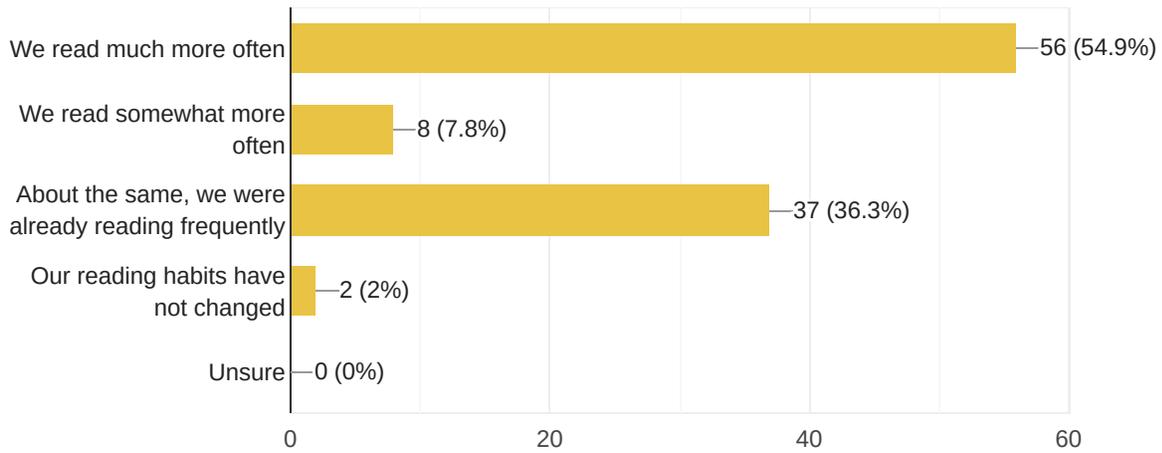
103 responses



Since receiving Imagination Library books, has the frequency of reading at home changed?

 Copy

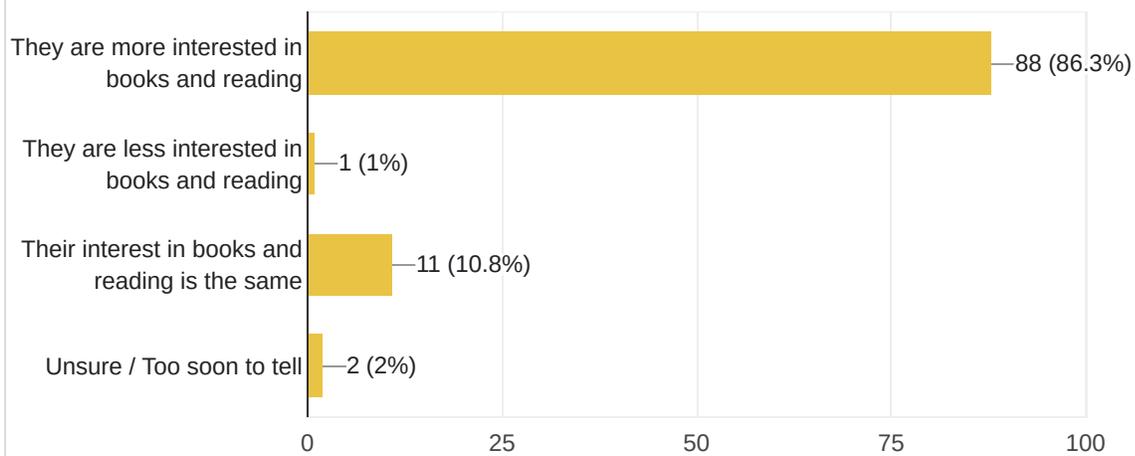
102 responses



Has receiving books from the Imagination Library changed your child(ren)'s interest in books and reading?

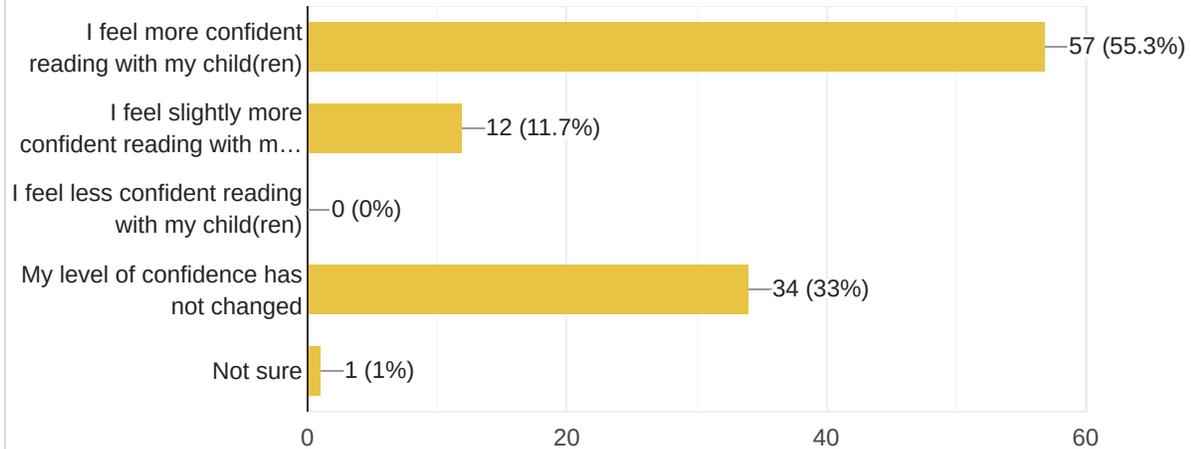
 Copy

102 responses



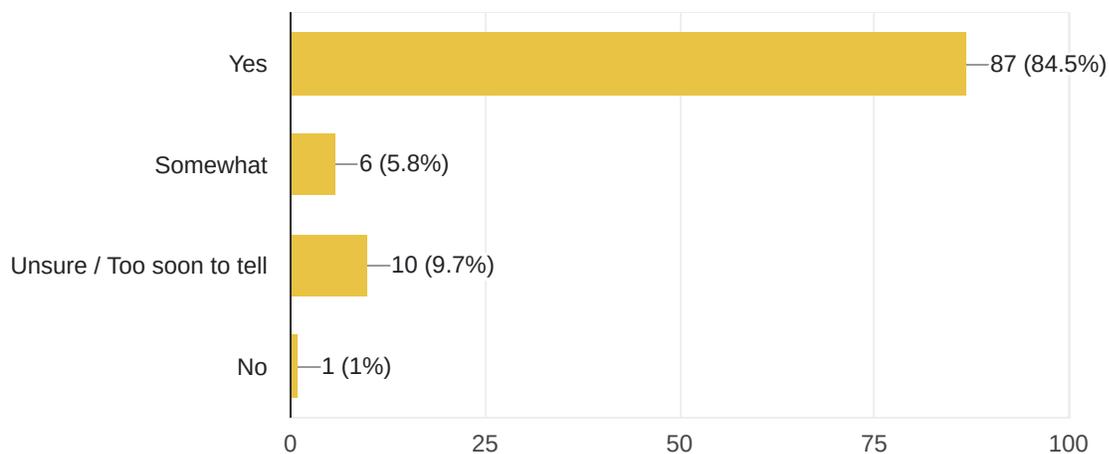
As a parent/guardian, has your level of comfort or confidence in reading with your child changed since participating in the program?

103 responses



Do you believe receiving monthly Imagination Library books is helping / has helped to prepare your child(ren) for kindergarten?

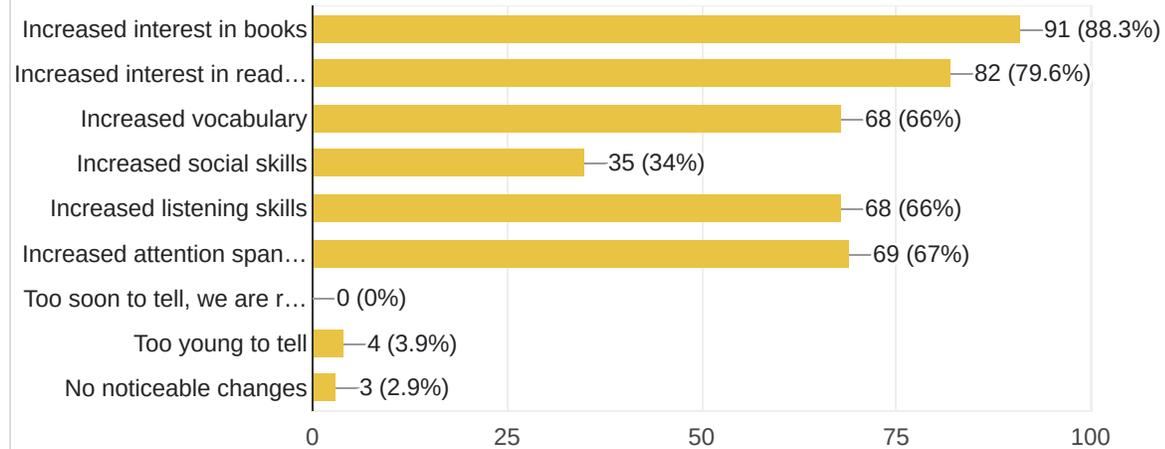
103 responses



What changes have you noticed in your child(ren) since starting Imagination Library? Check all that apply.

 Copy

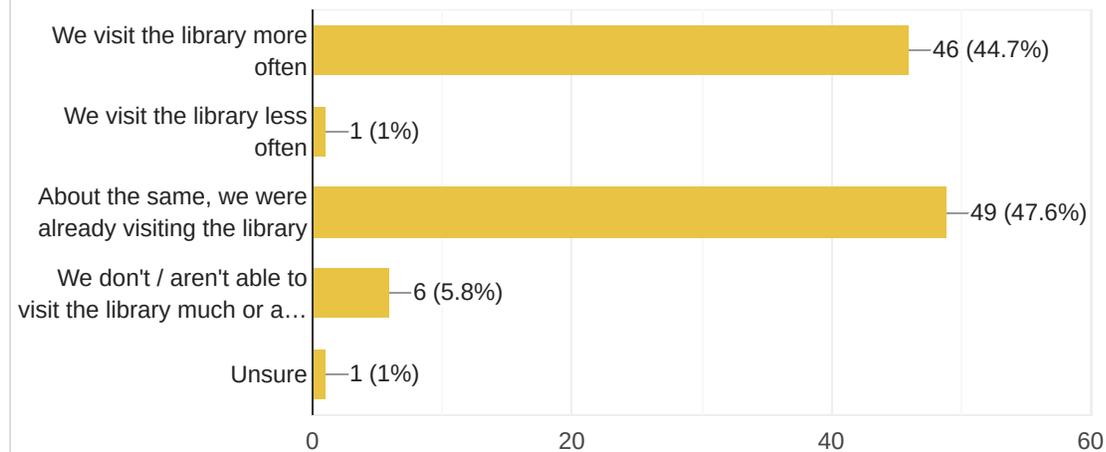
103 responses



Since receiving Imagination Library books, has your frequency of visiting the library changed?

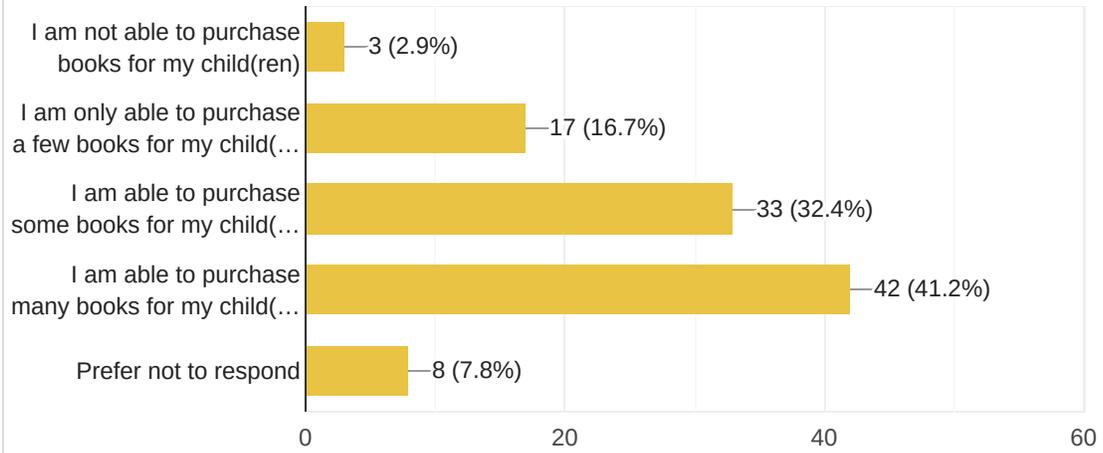
 Copy

103 responses



To what degree does your household income affect your ability to purchase children's books?

102 responses



Please share a few words about how the program has made a difference for your child or family. Or use this box to share other feedback about the program.

93 responses

My son has started getting really excited to get the mail to get his new book each month. The books have been fabulous. And he really loves to read. We visit the library often and he has many books, but I am really sad that this is going away. It was an exciting time of the month for all of us to get a surprise book. I would have donated if I knew the program was in jeopardy.

My son loved these books from Dolly, and I loved they had a helpful moral to the story. I even played on of Dolly's song to him that were the lyrics to one of Dolly's songs.

discovered new stories

It is exciting getting a new book in the mail each month! Especially loved the bilingual books

Imagination library has introduced us to new books and authors that we have not read before.

My child has been so excited about her monthly book. We go out to the mailbox together (getting us outside more too!) and she is so excited to get her book every month. She loves to read and the selections are so great.

This program was wonderful. It was a great joy to see my children's joy when a book with their name arrived in the mail. The eagerness to read the book immediately was always a given. The selection of books were wonderful too. The prompts in it helped me learn to engage my children and taught me how to read to them interactively.

It is so sad to see such a wonderful program come to an end. The impact it had on my kids were immense.

Growing up I didnt have books of my own. This gave us a chance to collect a small library of our own and in a way give the adult in me a joy to see my kids have something I didn't get to have myself.

I hope the program returns. 0-5 is a precious age and the immense act of one free book a month to make a library of their own plants that love for reading they can take on for a lifetime.

We really enjoyed the books and got books that I probably never would have bought or rented on my own. We are very disappointed that the program is ending

We loved the wide variety of titles and representation

My children love the Imagination Library books. They looked forward to their book every month and would eagerly come with me to the mailbox, excited for its arrival. These books became part of our nightly bedtime routine. My older son used to read them to his little sister.

We stopped receiving them a few months ago since my daughter turned five. I wanted to enroll my one-year-old baby, but I saw that the program is no longer available for us. I truly hope that in the near future, the program returns to fill our children with joy and new stories.

Thank you so much for all these years of wonderful reading. In the meantime, we continue to lovingly reread the books we have kept. Thanks!

We love the Imagination Library! The book delivery has added immensely to our collection and we appreciate each one we were able to receive.

It's like meeting the right person at the right time from the comfort of your home. Thank you !

My daughter gets so excited to check the mail for "magazine books". Definitely makes her day and then we read in several times in a row. A few of the books she's memorized is thanks to this program.

We love the variety of books we receive through the Imagination Library program. We truly appreciate the generosity!

My daughter loved getting her books every month and receiving the new books encouraged her to try new books.

They look forward to getting mail and specifically a new book. It is a great quiet time activity. We read several times a day and upon request. It is helping with language skills, communication, thinking, vocabulary....

My kids were always so excited to receive a book in the mail. It made their day.

I absolutely loved this program. My daughter is always excited to get the book every month and loves to read them before nap and bedtime. These books have helped her become excited and eager to read!! I cannot express enough how grateful I am of the program and the unmeasurable amount of benefits it has had on my child.

Thanks to Imagination Library, my son was able to develop an interest in the topic (vehicles/transportation) he would like to learn; therefore, I capitalize on it to teach him about other things (i.e. colors, counting, ABCs, etc.) at an early age. Because of the early exposure to reading, he was able to qualify for early learning programs at Howard County. Thank you so much!

This program has been a wonderful and something my son has looked forward to. I will also share that it has exposed us to different kinds of books too and some of my son's favorite books have come from this program. I would love to be involved to help keep programs like these going through donation or other fundraising efforts.

Both parents work long hours at demanding jobs. We eagerly read new books from the Imagination Library as a family. We cherish the novelty, frequency, and diversity of books sent to us from this program.

The program has offered more variety and exposure to different genres and themes.

We loved the variety of books that were sent- often ones we would not have picked out for ourselves but our kids ended up loving!

The program is great. It was offered to us and were told it was for anyone so we signed up, but our family has lots of books at home, regularly goes to the library, etc. So while it was nice, it didn't make a significant impact for us as far as changing things because we were already doing a lot of the things the program is trying to affect.

My kids always ask if there's a book for them when I check the mail. They love their books!

It was so exciting to receive a new book every month. Our kids were exposed to books that they may not have read before.

We loved this program. I loved seeing my toddler light up getting a new book and getting her own mail. I am really sad this is being discontinued. I am a newer mom and this was a great resource for books that were age appropriate. We love reading and I was so excited to continue this through her fifth birthday. Super disappointed that the wealthiest county in the state can't figure out a way to continue this program.

This program has been a pillar in our reading journey. We're sad to hear the news of closing. We want to help, it may be little but it's important for us to budget it.

The best part is bringing a new book to a child or our family. We have seen some books on repeat with 3 kids, but have also seen new books. Some are wonderful. Some are "meh" books. At least 1-2 of my kids used to get excited to get mail to see if they got a book (big deal) or if it was FOR THEM (bigger deal).

This program has meant so much. We are devastated that it is ending. From starting when my son had a speech delay to now having two kids who love to read, this is a huge loss for our community and for our kids.

It was so special for her to get her very own mail, and for that mail to be a book added such a positive connotation to books and reading before even cracking it open. The variety of topics was great and they were some of her favorite go-to books to return to again and again. I'm very sad this program is ending and that her baby brother won't get the same exciting mail experience, but grateful that my daughter was able to participate for a time and that we have the books to share with my son.

My wife and I are well-educated and know the value of reading and speaking to your children. We also visit our library (HoCo Central Branch is the closest one to us) often. The Imagination

Library filled a role that borrowing books from the library couldn't always fill. When we go to the library, we choose books (or let our son choose books) to borrow, and then we have a set time period in which to connect. The Imagination Library program chose books that my household may not otherwise select, exposing us to new ideas and authors. In addition, owning the books give our son more time to connect with them. (There are some library books he doesn't want to read at all, and we return them unread.) Some of his favorite books came from this program. A big, big thank you for running this program.

My daughter gets so excited about her book in the mailbox and wants to read it right away! She also chose several Imagination Library books as her potty books while potty training - they got us through a challenging time!!

My daughter insists we check the mailbox every day on our way in from the car in case we get a book. It warms my heart to see her so excited about reading.

My child has LOVED every book received from the Imagination Library. We have other books at home, but the books he gets are the only ones he prefers to read. He is going to be so upset that he will not be getting any more books in the future. The books are age appropriate which has made a huge difference! It is such a disappointment that Bright Minds will no longer receive the grant. Please look into finding other ways to allow for Imagination Library to provide books to the children living in Howard County.

My toddler has loved the books and they are her favorites. She brings them to me to read and the books help to guide me in choosing other age appropriate books for her. I will be so sad to see this program end!

It is nice having books in the home we are able to keep and have been with us through the years.

So saddened to see this program end! We loved receiving the books in the mail and have been for years. I am a huge reader and it has always been important to and the library is one of my favorite family outings so we did not need this program. It was a nice to have though. I can imagine the impact this has on those who are not as passionate about reading though.

We loved this program - my girls looked forward to the books every month! I especially loved the focus on social-emotional intelligence, like The Rabbit Listened, and Somewhere Right Now.

i hope imagination library read with me comes back in the future especially for kids on ifsp and iep.

Our child loves the books and asks for them to be read over and over. He is beginning to note the individual words and sounds and will "read" to himself a lot more.

Was fun to get a new book every month

It has been amazing being part of this program. I signed my son up when he was a newborn and he is now on the cusp of turning three. Every month he gets so excited about his new book in the mail. It is a gift to see him light up with delight over his latest literary adventure. I have not yet shared with him that he will receive his last book soon. I don't want to believe it. These books not only increase his literacy skills and access, they are a benefit to my entire family. My older children, aged 10 and 12, get to practice their oral presentation skills by reading these books to their little brothers. My youngest son, who is the age my toddler was when he first started receiving the Imagination Station books, will also benefit from growing up with this fun library of age-appropriate tales. My husband and I are grateful to own books that are wholesome and sweet as the literary foundation for our boys. Thank you for the years we were able to benefit from this beautiful initiative.

Initially I wasn't sure the registration went through because it so long before receiving the books

We are always excited to find a new book in the mail! My kids always want to read the "book from Dolly Parton" right away.

Having a book that arrives in the mail specifically for my child has made him excited to receive and read new books.

My daughter has been so excited to receive her monthly books. I believe they have given us access to books we may not have otherwise read and because of that we've been able to share new experiences together. We are very sad the program is ending.

My daughter really looks forward to getting her new book from the mailbox every month. It's the only dedicated mail she gets. :) It's such a fun thing to get and we definitely get stories that I wouldn't have thought of before.

This program was amazing and really hoping to see it return! My daughter lights up when she receives a book in the mail

My child looks forward to receiving his special mail every month. He then gets to share his new book with his siblings. The level of excitement of a new book is outstanding.

This program has introduced our family to books with faces, characters and stories we would have never been exposed to! The topics are diverse, the themes are brilliant and the range of the types of stories has made our home library robust! You all have done such a great job, and this is a terrible time to lose funding - when children and families need it the most (knowing full well this issue is caused high above and beyond the Bright Minds team).

We are so grateful for the books we have received thus far. Our daughter is always so excited when she gets her new books in the mail. The excitement alone has really increased her interest in looking at books by herself, as well as being read to.

Imagination Library books are carefully selected to fit the needs of my child during the last 2.5 years. I appreciate for everything the team has done to develop and maintain this program.

My son loved going to the mailbox and seeing a box with his name on it. It sparked his curiosity to read more, check the mail, engage in conversations, and spark a love of reading. We are so grateful to this organization.

Every time a book will come in our mail box, my child would get so excited and happy! She will pick up her new book, opened it and start looking at the pictures... even her big sister would picked up and start reading it. They we will read it at night. The program was amazing! I'm so sad that needs to end, but so grateful that we were part of it for these years. It definitely created a difference in the dynamics of our household. Thank you!

I really appreciate your help like the books sent ,I'm very sorry that the money that the money can no longer be collected .If I had I WOULD donate to them so that they continue helping so many children ,need to learn to read and know more about reading ,unfortunately some parents don't have to buy some, but thank you very much for the books send to my son ,he loves it very much .

My child has really enjoyed the books that were sent to us through this program. They are the books they most often choose to read.

I'm sad to hear that the program is not able to be funded in the future. Both of my sons have benefited from the Imagination Library. My oldest son completed the program when he entered kindergarten in 24-25. My youngest son is 3 and looks forward to getting "books from Dolly" each month. His excitement about reading books definitely increased when he received those books in the mail.

Thank you for the opportunity over the past 6 years! I hope it will return for other families in the future.

Our family has loved receiving books from the Imagination Library. Although we do have plenty of books and regularly take out books & attend programming at the library, Imagination Library has helped us by both introducing books that represent a wide, diverse set of cultures & people and by creating excitement for our son when a new book arrives in the mail "just for him." This excitement translates into a love of stories. We'll often read several books a day and in his quiet time, he loves to choose more books and take them to snuggle in bed & read. I am sad to hear that Imagination Library will no longer be available in our area, not because it will create a negative impact on our family, but rather because there are kids who NEED this program to have book access and I worry for them.

This program has been the absolute best. My children looked forward to receiving their books and this was the highlight of their month. Our book library grew and they were exposed to a variety of books I probably never would have selected. We definitely read more because of the program and receiving the books. One of the books sent has become my daughter's favorite

book in the entire world. She took it into kindergarten with her on her "bring a book to school day".

We've received many books that have become favorites that we never would have thought to purchase on our own. The program has definitely expanded the diversity of the books we are reading.

Cannot begin to explain how much we appreciated the Imagination Library program. My kids are always so excited about receiving new books in the mail (more so than even toys!) Some of their favorite books of all time came from this program. It has help instilled an early love for books in our children's lives. We are very sad this program is retiring but forever grateful for the resources it provided.

Thank you so much for bringing this program to our community over the last few years. These books have been an incredibly meaningful part of our lives. From the time we first signed up, and my niece was a toddler, she would quite literally jump up and down when a new book would arrive in the mail. Even though she's just started kindergarten this fall, she's already reading on her own, and her younger brother loves being read to. They have completely different interests, but the Imagination Library books have helped spark both of their imaginations, grow their curiosity, and strengthen our family bond through reading.

While we knew my niece would age out of the program this December, I am heartbroken for her little brother and for other children in the community who will miss out until a new partner is identified. These books have been a cornerstone of their early education and creativity, and I am incredibly grateful for the impact this program has had on them.

If there is a way for me to help support this program's return, please let me know. Knowledge is power, and early access to books is one of the best gifts we can give a child.

this was a game changer program for HOCO residents. I am heartbroken to learn that there isn't enough funding to support the program.

Getting books in the mail was a special surprise my kids were always excited for

I have loved this program because it provided books for my children that I would not have necessarily picked out myself. Some of my childrens' favorite books are from this program.

This program is incredible and has been a huge benefit to our child. He gets so excited when he gets a new book in the mail and we have to read it immediately. He was in the NICU for the first 10 days after being born and this program helped us feel supported as a family that our community was invested in helping him have the brightest future. This is a huge loss and I truly hope you are able to find more funding.

My children has autism and this valuable resource really helps parents get the age appropriate books.

The Imagination Library Books bring such a wide variety of topics, cultures and characters into our home and Child's worldview that they likely would not have encountered at this age otherwise. They are often books my child or I would not have self-selected at a library but almost always enjoy and learn from upon reading. We will miss having this addition to our child's early literacy.

Our children love to read and looked forward to receiving monthly books. Thank you!

We have loved participating. Our favorite books have come from the Imagination Library and it's been wonderful watching my kids get excited about getting a surprise book in the mail. We have loved that the books are vetted and always such good picks with a diverse range of authors and topics. I can't say how disappointed I am that this is ending and how grateful I am that we were able to participate even if only for a little while. I would love to hear if there is something we can do to support a change in this decision. I understand that it probably wasn't made lightly.

We found that the books from the Imagination Library had particular themes that were really engaging for my child, and we would not have come across these books otherwise. Some of her favorite books are from the Imagination Library!

We look forward to receiving imagination, library books, each month, and often my children like to read the same book several nights in a row they look forward to reading at bedtime.

Helped my daughter develop an interest on book

This program allows us to read books that we wouldn't thought of choosing. Definitely exposed us to more variety of books.

It's a shame the program is ending my son always looked forward receiving new book each month. We have enjoyed the program and always encouraged us to read more and more to him. Hopefully it comes back soon.

We are DEVASTATED we won't be getting our monthly books. My daughter waits for her books in the mail. For the past 2 years, her routine in the morning includes going to the mailbox to see if a book has arrived. My daughter is 3 years old and can read. I know it's because of the help of these books because they added a bit of surprise to her days. My husband and I both work , so we never qualify for any kind of additional support from the county- but this program was the little help we needed to fill their at home libraries and peak their interest in reading. This is a huge disappointment for our family. Even their grandparents love "new book day" and they sit with them to look through their newest addition.

The books were fun to receive - however sadly the selection didn't resonate with our family. I kept hoping that the books would become more complex and engaging as she got older but sadly there was only one favorite book of all the many titles we received.

I enjoyed getting books specifically for the age group. My child enjoyed getting a book she might have not picked. We donated many books

I have 5 kids, all of whom have either "graduated from" or are currently receiving IL books. They LOVE that these books are personalized for THEM and are not "community books". We do have an extensive library, however these books are particularly special because they are just for that individual child, which they find very special- especially in a large family. They just love these books and many of the titles are among the favorites in our home library. I expect them to be passed down, much like I ended up getting boxes of books from MY childhood.

We are disappointed this program is ending. We read at least 10-12 books per day. The selections of books has been a fresh breath of air. We love rereading the same books and can't do that with library books as you got to return them.

I'm so sorry to hear this and am extremely sad for our community. We have enjoyed every book we've received - my daughter loves getting mail from Dolly Parton. Is there anything we can do to help? Donate? Contact our representatives? Thank you to everyone who worked so hard bringing this program to Howard County. I hope it can find a way to continue!

Thank you for sponsoring such a wonderful program that helps increase literacy for our littles! My daughter looked forward each month to receiving her book and I really appreciated the tips and recommendations for engaging in the book with my child built into the inside of each book cover. She had some favorites which we've read over and over again. I think the vast selection and variety of books as well as the age appropriateness of the books also help tremendously with keeping my child engaged. We are now working on learning how to read and sound out words. I really hope that in the future you can secure funding to participate in this program again (even if my daughter has outgrown it) - I really believe this benefits our young children allowing them access to books delivered right to their door and hopefully increasing literacy rates for our community or even just the love of books with our young ones. Thanks!

It was been so special seeing our son look forward to new books in the mail. We've particularly loved that even though he prefers nonfiction topics, he enjoyed the variety of pictures books through IL and we were introduced to some of our forever favorite stories this way (shout-out to Squeak!). IL has helped us discover new authors and spark curiosity for fiction!

Thank you so much for this program. I am deeply saddened to see it end. My child's face would light up every time we went to the mailbox to get our new book. It made him excited to listen to the book and have conversations about what we read. This is truly shattering, but I do hope that this program receives the funding it needs to continue or to start a new program. Thank you all for these wonderful experiences you helped to create through literacy.

This program has been wonderful. My child has been exposed to so many wonderful books. My child gets excited to see what new book arrives each month. My child now lasts to go to the library on an almost weekly basis!

I signed up when my daughter was born and she was on the wait-list for about half a year. We were always of the mind to be very book-heavy in our home, and our daughter always express joy at receiving a new book every month. She will be turning 6 by the end of this year and we continue to purchase books and utilize the library, and she is thriving in no small part to our participation in the program - we insist on this participation to all expectant parents within our social circles. We are so very thankful for Bright Minds and the Imagination Library, and are thoroughly saddened at this news of insufficient funding.

Such an incredible initiative, sad to see it ending. The parent guided questions for prompts for discussion and critical thinking were amazing to have when reading to the child: kids really looked forward to getting a book on the mail Monthly.

I absolutely love the selection of books sent to my children. They were educational and entertaining. They are better books than I would have found on my own for my children and expanded their knowledge in many things. I feel blessed to have been able to take part in this program with my children and am sad it's ending.

My child LOVED to get the books in the mailbox

My kids have been exposed to books I wouldn't have thought to get, and they've found some of their favorites through the Imagination Library. We have a ritual when a new book arrives- we get a snack, cuddle in my bed, and read it together.

My child has gotten some his favorite books from the Imagination Library, and it's gotten him excited to check the mail. It's hard to know what's age appropriate and when. We are very sorry to see this wonderful program go. I hope that it finds a way to continue in the future and you don't stop working toward increasing childhood literacy.

Since our son was two years old (now five, we have enjoyed reading all of the various books received through this program. He always lit up when a new book came in the mail from "Aunty Dolly!" We always had to read the new book right away! As a parent, I enjoyed the being introduced to a lot of different topics and authors. But I also loved receiving the classics that I enjoyed reading with my family growing up, like The Little Engine that Could. The transition of books that were sent as we prepared him for Kindergarten was so appropriate. The beautiful letter he received from "Aunty Dolly" upon getting his last book, was so heartfelt. Thank you so much for allowing our family to be apart of this amazing journey. I'm saddened that other families will not be able to experience this beautiful program.