



# **ANNAPOLIS AREA IMAGINATION LIBRARY (AAIL)**

**HELP US CONTINUE TO SERVE CHILDREN IN ANNAPOLIS**

# WHAT DO WE DO?

The Annapolis Area Imagination Library is a book gifting program that mails free, high-quality books to children from birth to age five - regardless of family income.



## We are an affiliate of the national Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

### The national organization:

- Selects the books
- Mails books
- Administers program - covers overhead costs

### Our local organization:

- Registers children
- Raises money to cover cost of books and mailing - \$2.20/child/month or \$26/child/year



# OUR REACH:

- In May of 2023, we mailed 667 books to children in Annapolis
- In May of 2024, we will be mailing 1108 books to children in Annapolis
- COST:  $1108 \times \$26 = \$28,808$





## OUR FOCUS - Low income and immigrant families

We register children in person at:

- Food pantries
- Diaper banks
- Events at targeted schools
- Community celebrations and resource fairs

Over 80% of the children we serve are from either low-income or immigrant families.

# EARLY LITERACY SKILLS

*Print motivation*

*Print awareness*

*Letter knowledge*

*Vocabulary*

*Phonological awareness*

*Narrative skills*

# KINDERGARTEN READINESS

Measured in  
Maryland using  
the *Kindergarten  
Readiness  
Assessment (KRA)*

- Social skills
- Physical development
- Literacy
- Math

# KINDERGARTEN READINESS- HOW DO OUR CHILDREN MEASURE UP?

Maryland  
42%

Anne Arundel  
43%

African-American  
37%

Latino  
25%

Low-Income  
26%



# HOW PROFICIENT ARE OUR ANNAPOLIS CHILDREN IN READING?

*Anne Arundel  
County Average:  
51%*

*Elementary  
Schools in  
Annapolis: 23%  
proficient*

*Range of  
proficiency at  
Annapolis  
Elementary  
Schools: 17 -  
29%*

# EVIDENCE THAT THE DOLLY PARTON PROGRAM WORKS

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- Children with 20+ books in the home get on average 3 more years of education than children without books in the home
- Having books in the home is more powerful than having a parent with a university education
- Families who receive books from the DPIL read more together as they participate in the program



# COMMENTS FROM PARENTS

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“This program is amazing! Not only does my child read more, but I read more!”

“The books from Dolly Parton are the ones she asks me to read over and over again.”

“My son graduated from the program two years ago but he won't let me get rid of any of his Dolly Parton books.”



“My daughter counts the days until her Dolly Parton book arrives.”