



## California launches statewide expansion of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

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**[Sacramento, Calif.]** — California is launching a statewide expansion of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, which delivers free, age-appropriate books every month to children from birth to age five, regardless of a family's income.

The Imagination Library of California is available in over 40 locations, including to every child in 20 counties. Today the state begins bringing the program to every California child. To sign up or join the waiting list if the Imagination Library of California hasn't come to your part of the state yet, go here: <https://Imagination.Library.ca.gov/>.

Growing the Imagination Library is the latest investment California is making to provide access to opportunity and expand early learning availability.

"Early readers grow into strong readers. Strong readers are more likely to succeed in school and to succeed in life. The Imagination Library makes that happen for every kid under five," said California State Librarian Greg Lucas. "This is the kind of challenge we like at the State Library — working with local partners to put as many books as we can into the hands of as many kids as we can."

The program's expansion was driven by bipartisan legislation signed last year by Gov. Gavin Newsom. Under the bill — authored by Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) and Senator Shannon Grove (R-Bakersfield) — the State Library provides a dollar-for-dollar match to help local organizations that partner with the Imagination Library to sign up more kids to receive books.

For California, the Imagination Library is now making every book available in English and Spanish. Families can select which language they would prefer to receive email communications.

The Imagination Library started in 1995 when Dolly Parton began gifting books to kids in the Tennessee county where she was raised. The program now exists in all 50 states and five countries.

More than 40 existing local partners have already registered over 35,000 children to receive free books in California. Local partners, who must include a 501 (c)3 non-profit, provide funding, which the state now will match, promote the program in their communities and sign-up participants.

The goal is to expand the program into all 58 counties so that every child who wants to can be part of the Imagination Library.

All books in the Imagination Library are selected by a panel of experts in early childhood and reading. Each book is age-appropriate, and the [list](#) features a diverse range of titles, authors, and genres.

For more information and to see if the program is available in your area, go to <https://imagination.library.ca.gov/>.

To find out how to become a local partner, go to <https://imaginationlibrary.com/usa/start-a-program/> to learn more.

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**About the State Library:** Founded in 1850, the California State Library has an extensive collection of art, books, diaries, maps, newspapers, periodicals, photographs, and posters from throughout California's rich history. The State Library is also California state government's information hub and holds federal and state publications, is home to the Bernard E. Witkin State Law Library and the Braille and Talking Book Library, and serves as the lead state agency for library-related services throughout California. [State Library website](#)

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