

## Sonoma County Imagination Library

# Community Outreach Orientation May 29, 2024

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#### **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library: The Basics**

- Free program that fosters the love of reading among children, birth to age 5
- Enrolled children receive a high-quality, age-appropriate book in the mail every month until their 5th birthday
- Books arrive at child's home with name on the mailing label from birth to age 5
- · Books are selected by a committee of experts in child development and literacy
- In CA, books are available in Spanish, English and bilingual Spanish/English
- 1 in 10 children under age 5 in the USA receives Imagination Library books
- Over 200 million books have been distributed since 1995

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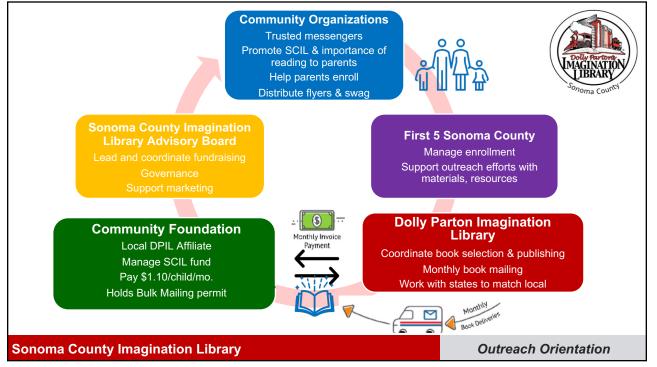
### **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library: History**



- 1995 2007 Launched by The Dollywood Foundation in Sevier County, TN & expanded throughout the state
- 2007-2019 Expanded to other states, Canada, Australia, UK, Ireland, Audio & Braille
- **2023** Governor Newsom signed a bi-partisan bill to expand DPIL Statewide in California -similar expansion underway in Maine, Illinois, Washington, Illinois, West Virginia and other states
- 2024 Community Foundation Sonoma County & First 5 Sonoma County partner with existing local programs and several community organizations to bring DPIL countywide

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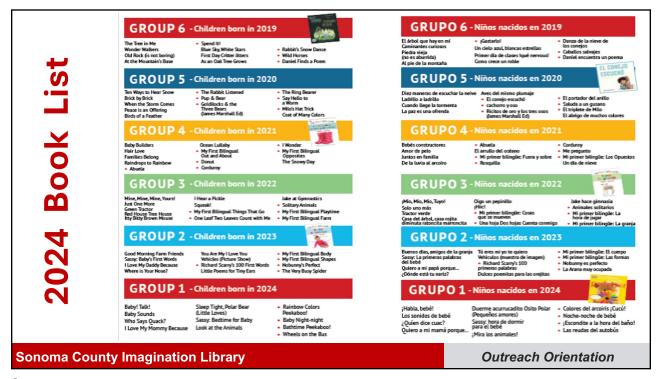


#### **Book Selection**

- Dolly Parton Imagination Library convenes a Blue Ribbon Committee
- The first book a child receives is The Little Engine That Could
- Near their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday, they receive Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!
- All titles available in English or Spanish OR fully bilingual in English and Spanish.
- Book selection changes each year.



BILINGUAL ENGLISH / SPANISH PROGRAM - PROGRAMA BILINGÜE INGLÉS/ESPAÑOL



#### Ideas for Integrating Imagination Library in Programs & Services





Send the enrollment flyer with the QR code home so the parent can  $S_{o_{n_{oma}} Cod}$  register online

Hang posters with the QR code at program sites in lobby or waiting room (First 5 can provide)

Engage parents to fill out the enrollment form during program time when discussing why it's important to read to very young children (ex: playgroups, well check visits) and send batched forms to First 5.

- Pediatricians, nurses, CHWs: talk to parents about the importance of reading to very young children and model in the well check visit
- Track the Imagination Library book list for the year and read the same books for the age group during storytime in playgroup, child care and preschool settings
- Have the age group books accessible to children playgroup, child care and preschool settings

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