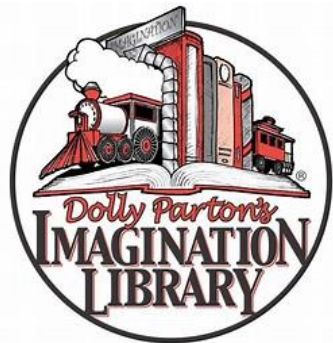


Imagination Library 10 Years On... Our commitment to Early Years Literacy & Beyond

November 2022



**North
Lincolnshire
Council**

www.northlincs.gov.uk

Welcome to our report on The North Lincolnshire Imagination Library.

North Lincolnshire Council is passionate about giving all our children the best start. A love of reading is critical to the effective development of a child's educational future. Our own research into the impact of the North Lincolnshire Imagination Library shows the significant benefit that registering with the programme has on children's achievement in the Early Years Foundation Stage and beyond.

The North Lincolnshire Imagination Library continues to go from strength to strength and is promoted as a model of international excellence. North Lincolnshire's Imagination Library is the highest achieving UK programme since its launch in 2013. Nine out of ten children under the age of 5 in North Lincolnshire are registered with the Imagination Library, which means that currently **7,170** children are receiving a free book every month. Families have told us what the North Lincolnshire Imagination Library and reading together means to them and their children.

Every child aged 0 to 5 can register and is eligible to receive the free gift of a book each month giving fair and equal access to all families. Children tell us they love it and rush to the doorstep to collect their gift which is often the very first thing to come through the letter box addressed to them. I have recently registered my first grandchild following a visit from one of our Imagination Library champions whilst we were in the special baby care unit and am rediscovering the joy of sharing books with her. Children can build their own "at home libraries" and of course use the County library offer as well to access a wealth of knowledge, fun and opportunity to share special family time. We aim to get every single one of our North Lincolnshire Children signed up to this great scheme and look forward to hearing from you.

We know sharing books in the home supports so much more than a love of reading. Time together enjoying books promotes secure attachments that support the development of confidence, self-esteem, health, and well-being. Having those special times together builds communication, listening, understanding, and talking skills, and of course helps to lay the foundations of good literacy skills.



This report is a celebration of the North Lincolnshire Imagination Library and the many achievements that have been enabled for children and families.

Councillor Julie Reed
Cabinet Member for Children and Families

The Imagination Library was launched as a pilot in North Lincolnshire in 2013 and has since been extended to 2022.



North Lincolnshire's Imagination Library is the highest achieving UK programme since its launch in 2013 and is fully funded by the council.

Our own research into the impact of the Imagination Library shows the benefit that registering with the programme has on children's achievement in the Early Years Foundation Stage and beyond. We are passionate about this scheme. It has provided a fantastic platform for literacy across our locality. The leaders of our council see this as an invaluable tool to promote a love of reading and learning.



Parents frequently comment about how lucky they feel that North Lincolnshire supports the Imagination Library programme. Comments include how much they value the way the book arrives addressed to the child making it feel a really positive and unique approach to valuing the joy of sharing books. They comment on the quality and variety of the books and how it motivates them to make reading part of the home routine.

In feedback parents tell us that they read more regularly with their children because they receive the books every month. They tell us that their children are excited to receive and share their books with them every month. Families tell us that the books bring their family together for quality time with many older siblings enjoying sharing the books with younger siblings.

Parents are very aware of the value and importance of sharing books with their children from a young age, in terms of future attainment, wellbeing and skills for life, this message continues to be reinforced by the work of the **North Lincolnshire Children's Literacy Trust and the Words Count Campaign.**

"The only thing more important than what we do for our children today is what we will do for them tomorrow. We are so fortunate to have the forward-thinking folks at North Lincolnshire paving the way to teach us all how to best sustain our efforts for decades to come. I bet the Children's Literacy Trust will be going strong 100 years from now, so I am making my plans to celebrate that milestone!"

- Dolly Parton

The North Lincolnshire Imagination Library – Latest Data (November 2022)

86%

- of children under the age of 5 in North Lincolnshire are currently registered with the Imagination Library

820,674

- books have been gifted since the launch in 2013

22,578

- children registered since the launch of the Imagination library in 2013

7,170

- children are currently registered with the Imagination Library in North Lincolnshire

15,408

- children have graduated from the Imagination Library in North Lincolnshire since 2013

3,500

- families and professionals are signed up to the monthly IL newsletter, encouraging home learning



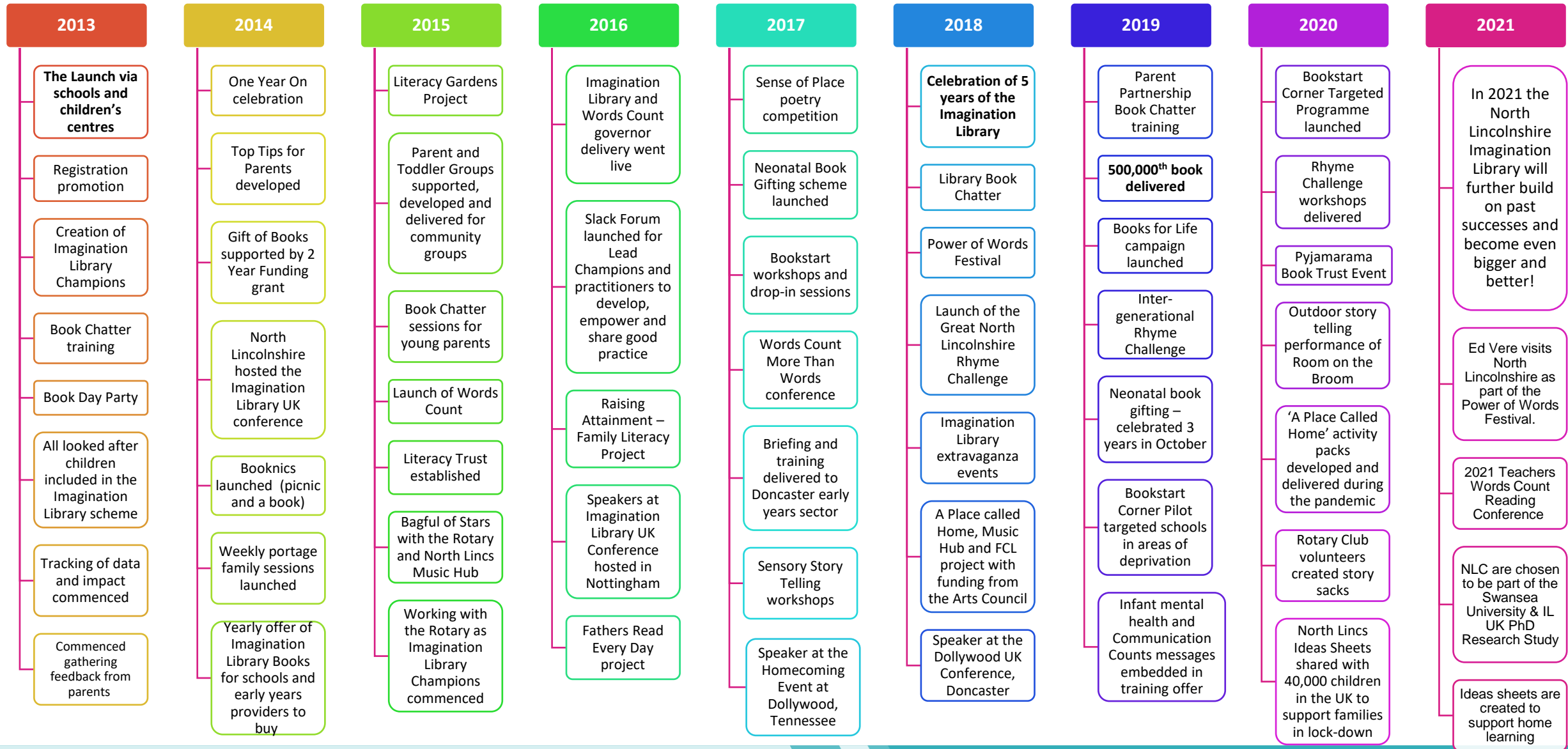
Dollywood UK regularly ask us to share our Imagination Library journey. We are held as an exemplar of best practice and we are recognised as **the most successful of its kind in the world.**

We look forward to sharing our success story at the Dollywood UK regional Conference in January 2023.
























The journey so far in North Lincolnshire

The North Lincolnshire Imagination Library



Imagination Library The journey so far in North Lincolnshire

 <p>2013: Launch of the Imagination Library in North Lincolnshire</p>	 <p>2013: Book Day Party</p>	 <p>2014: Booknics</p>	 <p>2014: Top Tips for Parents</p>	 <p>2015: Dolly and her parents</p>	 <p>2015: Literacy Gardens Project</p>	 <p>2016: Fathers Read Every Day (FRED) Project</p>
 <p>2016: Raising Attainment Family Literacy Project</p>	 <p>2017: Performance of Bagful of Stars</p>	 <p>2018: Imagination Library UK Conference</p>	 <p>2018: A Place Called Home</p>	 <p>2018: the Great North Lincolnshire Rhyme Challenge</p>	 <p>2019: Books gifted to Scunthorpe Hospital</p>	 <p>2019: Teddy appears with Dolly Parton on the One Show</p>
 <p>2019: Normanby workshops for the Early Years Sector</p>	 <p>2019: Neo-natal Book Gifting</p>	 <p>2019: Intergenerational Rhyme Challenge</p>	 <p>2020: Story Sacks created by Rotary Club volunteers</p>	 <p>2021: Launch of new Ideas Sheets</p>	 <p>2021: IL Author Ed Vere visits North Lincolnshire.</p>	 <p>2022: IL Book Chatter Family Learning Courses</p>

Impact of the Imagination Library

Children registered with the Imagination Library generally outperform their peers at all key stages



Children who first registered with the Imagination Library when it was launched in 2013 reached the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) in 2016. Since 2016, we have collected and analysed data which clearly shows that **children registered with the Imagination Library outperformed their unregistered counterparts each year.**



In North Lincolnshire the Imagination Library makes a real difference to our children who don't have the same opportunities as their peers, or are at risk of underachieving - most notably for summer born children (boys in particular), children with special educational needs and children who are not British.



The impact of the Imagination Library is not confined to the EYFS and continues to evidence itself on a child's journey throughout school. In 2017 and 2018 research was undertaken to whether children who were previously registered with the Imagination Library continued to outperform their unregistered counterparts in the end of Year 1 Phonics Screening Test. **The cohort of children registered with the Imagination Library outperformed their non-registered counterparts in each year.**

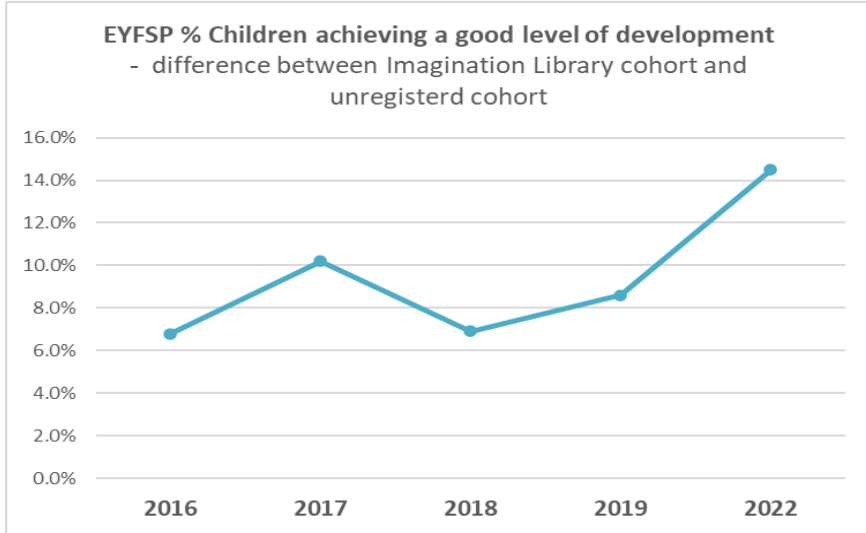


In 2019 further research was undertaken to whether children who were previously registered with the Imagination Library continued to outperform their unregistered counterparts at the end of Key Stage 1. **The cohort of children registered with the Imagination Library outperformed their non-registered counterparts in each subject area.**

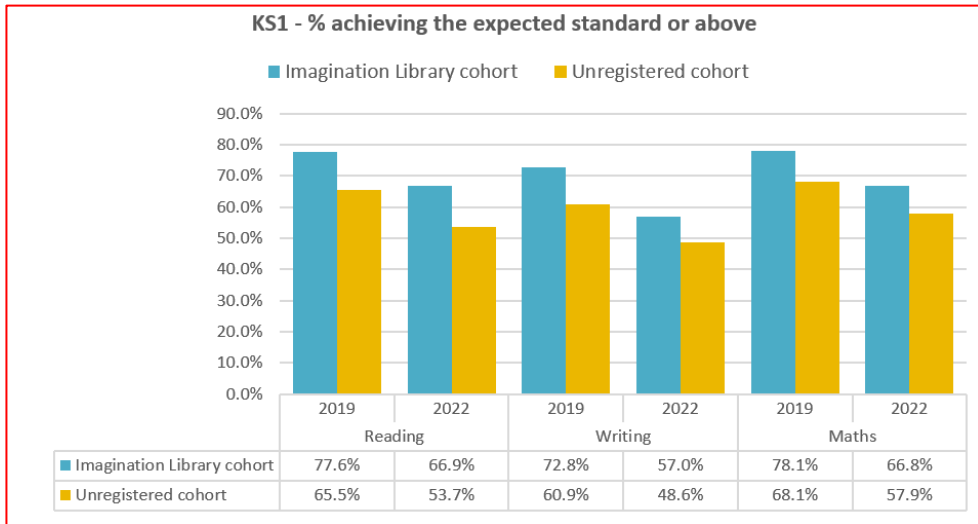


In 2022 we reflected on the impact of the Imagination library has on children at the end of Key Stage 2. The data shows that the cohort of children registered with the Imagination Library continue to outperform their peers in the **KS2 SATS.**

Impact of the Imagination Library



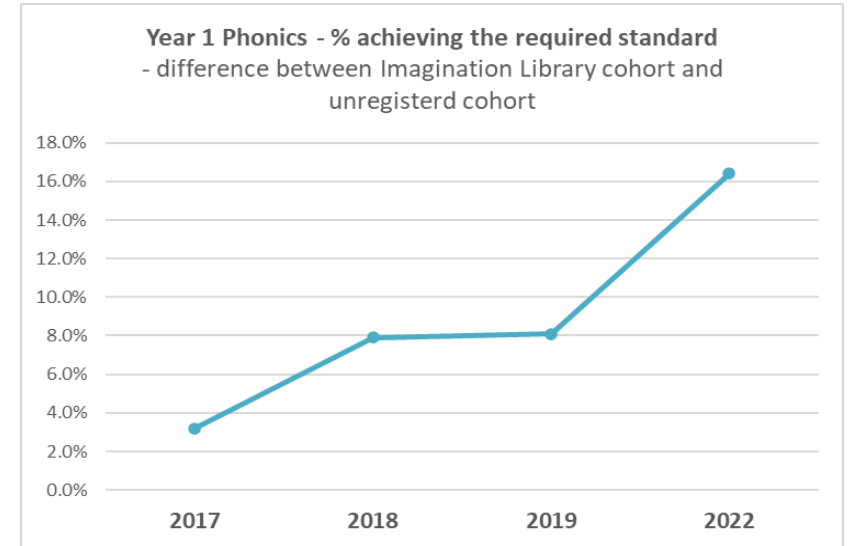
Current picture – in 2022 children registered to the Imagination Library outperformed their non-registered counterparts by 14.5 percentage points.



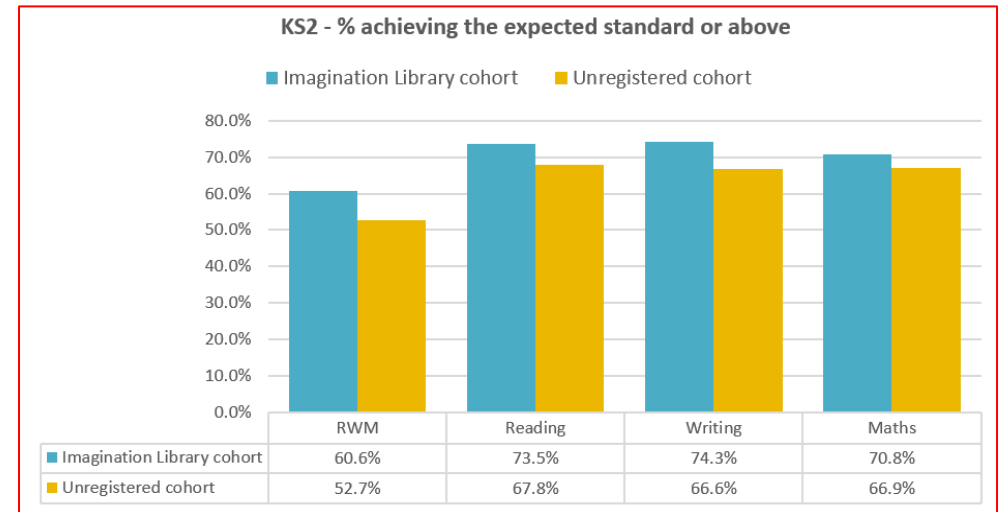
Our research shows that **children registered with the Imagination Library achieve better outcomes than those children who are not registered – at age 5, age 6 and at age 7.**

We now have evidence to show that **this impact continues into KS2** where children registered with the scheme continue to outperform their peers at age 11.

The North Lincolnshire Imagination Library



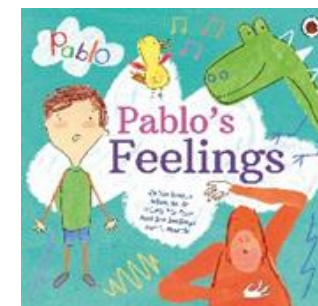
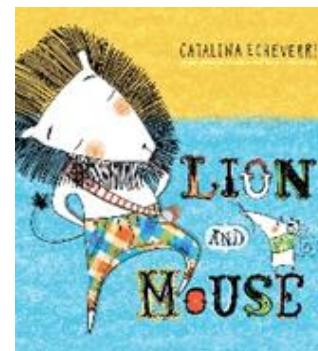
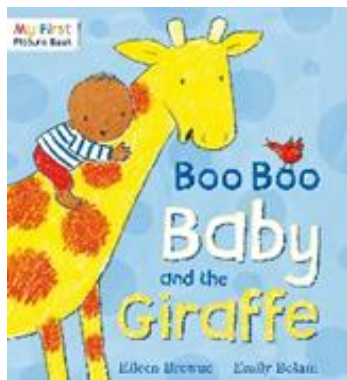
Current picture – In 2022, children registered to the Imagination Library outperformed their non-registered counterparts by 16.4 percentage points



The book titles chosen by the Book Selection Committee cover a range of titles and topics and include fiction and nonfiction books. The committee take great care to ensure that the themes and concepts in the books are age appropriate and that children can see their own experience reflected in the stories.

Examples of books to support establishing routines from 2021 - 2022

Examples of books focusing on feelings, friendships and individuality from 2021 - 2022





The Imagination Library in North Lincolnshire continues to be **the most successful programme in the world**, including partnership working with other local authorities.



86% of our under 5's receive a quality age-appropriate book delivered to their home address once a month. That's over **7170 books every month!**



Parents frequently comment about **how lucky they feel** that North Lincolnshire Council supports and invests in the Imagination Library programme.



A unique aspect of the Imagination Library in North Lincolnshire is the **diverse range of complementary activities** promoting the joy of reading. 3500 residents access the monthly newsletter for ideas and inspiration.



The Imagination Library works in partnership with the Stronger Communities Team, Family Learning, speech and language therapists, the Health and Neo-Natal Ward, young parents, North Lincolnshire Homes, portage and the 2 year funding team **to ensure we are reaching our most vulnerable families.**



Since the launch of our programme, we have now delivered **820,000** books. Research has shown how important it is for children to have books of their own and to revisit and share the stories regularly to develop **a love of reading.**



The **'Books for Life'** campaign was launched in February 2019 with events for children and their families to celebrate the books they receive with activities and storytelling.



The **Great North Lincolnshire Rhyme Challenge** - "great rhymers make great readers", in collaboration with the Book Trust, was launched in March 2018 as part of the Power of Words Festival. POW has allowed us to bring famous IL authors and illustrators to North Lincolnshire every year since it's launch.



Imagination Library Champions have been created in all localities - in children's centres, schools, early years providers, child-minders, mother and toddler groups, health visitors, midwives, library service and Rotary Club Members.... even the lady in the corner shop.



NLC were chosen to participate in a PhD research study in partnership with Swansea University. Looking at the impact of parent engagement with reading in families that received IL books.



IL Book Chatter sessions take place across North Lincolnshire with targeted families as part of the family learning offer.



It only seems like yesterday we celebrated our 5th Birthday and now preparations are taking place for our **10th Anniversary (March 2023)**



The key to our success is working as a multi-agency partnership approach

North Lincolnshire's approach to the delivery and development of the IL programme is foremost about working in partnership with health practitioners, speech and language, family hubs, early years settings, schools, colleges community groups to provide a One Family Approach enabling parents and carers to have a wide variety of opportunities to come together and feel supported and confident in supporting their Childrens early development, health and well-being. IL forms a core strand of the work around Communication Counts, health and nutrition advice and information and how to support transitions into school.

"We evidenced exceptional multi-agency working to support the most disadvantaged families and there is a very strong partnership ethos across the entire Early Years sector. As an example, the Imagination Library is fully embedded and across the entire early year's settings. In turn, the EY settings highly value the support and assistance provided by the local authority."

LGA Peer review 2019

National recognition of how Imagination Library provides a core foundation for supporting a One Council, One Community One Family approach



1. What difference does receiving a book regularly through the door make to the enjoyment you and your child have reading at home?

[More Details](#)

■ Yes ■ No ■ Not Applicable



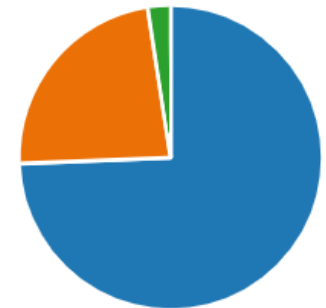
It's helped strengthen a bond between my two sons- my older son (aged 9) loves reading the new book to his younger brother.

Children have a chance to connect with each other because having read the same books gives them something in common. Also, the children's centres plan activities around the Imagination Library books so there is another strand there increasing the learning and development potential of the books.

3. What do you think about the books you receive from the Imagination Library?

[More Details](#)

Excellent	61
Very good	19
Good	2
Okay	0
Not very good	0



IL brings us together for reading time. Always positively.



It's encouraged my daughter's love of books and increased her vocabulary. It is such a lovely activity to share a book.



We read a wider range of books; books we may not have usually picked.



You are doing an amazing thing. Takes them away from tablets and gaming devices.



My granddaughter has speech and language issues and has a global development delay and getting the books has been fun and educational for her and helped with her speech.

Books are a more integral part of our daily routine.

Helped both of our children develop a love of reading and books.

Fabulous scheme, it's amazing and really encourages us all to read together. I have signed up today for the idea sheets, can't wait.

GROUP 3 Born 2019
Book: March 2021







THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR

by Eric Carle

This story is great for learning early counting skills.
Point to the food as you read the words and count along with the pictures.



one



two



three





Children love role play!

Get out some bowls, saucepans and spoons and let them be a chef.

Can they make you a meal? Talk to them and join in with what they say.

www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/lets-play-chefs/2762mfr

Finger painting is great for having fun and getting messy.

You can also introduce new words like 'slippery' and 'sticky' and discuss the colours your child is using.

Can they make a hand print butterfly?



1,2,3,4,5 Once I Caught a Fish Alive

1,2,3,4,5,
Once I caught a fish alive,
6,7,8,9,10
Then I let it go again,
Why did you let it go?
Because it bit my finger so.
Which finger did it bite?
This little finger on my right

www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/something-special-once-i-caught-a-fish-alive



Small Steps Big Changes - giving every child the best start in life

Latest Development:

North Lincolnshire Council, West Berkshire and SSBC Nottingham are working in partnership to share their expertise and resources to develop the ideas sheets. The launch of the new ideas' sheets took place in March 2021.

The ideas sheets continue to be mailed to all virtual schools by the Dollywood Foundation.

Marion Gillooly, Executive Director of The Dollywood Foundation UK said

'We are very grateful to our partners in North Lincolnshire Council for their generosity in sharing their ideas sheets. These informative, uplifting resources are packed full of hints, tips and suggestions for parents, which are much appreciated, particularly during this difficult time. We've had some fantastic feedback from families that demonstrates that the sheets have enriched the experience of sharing the Imagination Library books their children have received.'

"North Lincolnshire is delighted to work in partnership with SSBC Nottingham and West Berkshire Councils. The pulling together of resources and expertise is a fantastic way to support families and the home learning environment.

The ideas sheets contain simple activities, information, songs and rhymes to help parents and carers develop communication and language skills for their children birth to 5 yrs. These skills are vital for future learning, health and wellbeing."

- Councillor Rob Waltham, Leader of North Lincolnshire Council

During lockdown North Lincolnshire Imagination Library gave Dollywood UK access to our online support sheets for parents. The materials were highly praised, and several authorities are now working with us to create a full range of support materials each month.

Imagination Library Ideas Sheets - North Lincolnshire Reaches Out

Dollywood Foundation UK shared the Ideas Sheets with 206 affiliate partners, covering nearly 40,000 children.

Of the affiliates, 62 send books to children in care, around 5500 children. Many of the Virtual Schools have emailed the Ideas Sheets out directly to foster carers to support the children, and who are especially grateful when resources are so stretched. One education officer said, "These are marvellous, and I have emailed them out immediately, great timing as a foster carer was asking for resources only this morning! Delighted I had these to send out."

Of the large local authority programmes, West Berkshire Early Years team thought the resources were fabulous and a really great way of engaging with families. Small Steps Big Changes, delivering the Imagination Library in Nottingham, were delighted we had shared these and are making sure families can access them and are encouraged to use them with their children during this difficult time.

We also produce posters at the end of each month which are sent to settings and practitioners with the ideas sheets. They use these to further promote the Imagination Library books by sharing these with their families, often digitally to maximise their reach.



Books delivered in OCTOBER 2022



Group 1 - Born in 2022: Baby Touch Feelings
This book introduces your baby to different feelings and emotions.
Name and copy your baby's facial expressions. Whether they are happy, sad, excited or tired it's a great way to interact and begin to name feelings.



Group 2 - Born in 2021: Boo Boo Baby and the Giraffe
Boo Boo Baby is looking at the animals on his cot mobile as he drifts off to sleep. This gentle, reassuring bedtime book is ideal for exploring simple sounds and rhythms.



Group 3 - Born in 2020: Goodnight Tractor
Join a little boy, as he says goodnight to all his toys in this playful bedtime story.



Group 4 - Born in 2019: Lion and Mouse
Lion and Mouse are friends - but Lion thinks he is braver, stronger and more handsome!
A book about valuing our friends and thinking about their feelings.



Group 5 - Born in 2018: My Daddies
A rhyming picture book celebrating same-sex parents and shared story time, perfect for introducing children to the different families in the world today.
After you have shared the story, talk with your child about who is in their family.



Group 6 - Born in 2017: Something Else
This is a story about a small creature who does his best to join in with the others. But he's different. No matter how he tries, he just doesn't feel he belongs.
Then Something turns up and wants to be friends. But Something Else isn't sure what to do.

To register your child and for more information including tips, ideas and activities for the books visit:
www.northlincs.gov.uk/imagination-library

Have fun talking and sharing books
Children need to talk a long time before they learn to read; sharing books is a great way to help your child's language development.






Books delivered in OCTOBER 2022



Group 2 - Born in 2021: Boo Boo Baby and the Giraffe
Boo Boo Baby is looking at the animals on his cot mobile as he drifts off to sleep. This gentle, reassuring bedtime book is ideal for exploring simple sounds and rhythms.



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Lion and Mouse are friends - but Lion thinks he is braver, stronger and more handsome!
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To regularly receive information about the books subscribe to the Imagination Library monthly E-Newsletter by visiting:
www.northlincs.gov.uk/imagination-library

Again and Again!
It's good to share favourite books again and again. Repetition helps children to understand and remember the language they hear.




Imagination Library REGISTER TODAY



North Lincolnshire is working in partnership with the Dollywood Foundation

The Imagination Library offers **FREE BOOKS FOR CHILDREN 0-5 YEARS** to inspire and promote pleasure for reading with you at home.

Once you have completed the Dollywood registration form your child will receive a **FREE BOOK EACH MONTH*** delivered to your home address. *until their 5th Birthday

All 0-5 year olds in North Lincolnshire are eligible to register. Registration forms are available from your local Children's Centre, local Library, Health Visitor, Schools, Early Years Providers and also on our website: www.northlincs.gov.uk/imagination-library

To find out more call 01724 296652 or email earlyyears@northlincs.gov.uk




North Lincolnshire Council
www.northlincs.gov.uk

NHS
North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group

Imagination Library TOP TIPS



Have fun talking and sharing books
Children need to talk a long time before they learn to read; sharing books is a great way to help your child's language development.



Talk about pictures
Use your own home language when talking and sharing books together. You don't always have to read the words – make your own story from the picture.

Look and watch and see what they do
Let your child choose the book – they might be interested in a book you wouldn't choose. It's good to share favourite books again and again. Repetition helps children understand and remember the language they hear.



Enjoy books anywhere at anytime
Carry a book with you wherever you go – books are great for sharing when out and about, whether waiting for appointments, on the bus or at grandparents. Make it a really special time with you by switching off the television and radio and ignoring the mobile.

Let your child explore the book
Choose books that your baby/child can explore – both books, cloth books, lift the flap books, pop up books and books with different surfaces and textures. Visit your local library with lots of books to explore – it's FREE



Listen and respond with smiles, actions and chat
Give your child the time to respond to your chatter, pause and wait for them to show you or tell you what they are interested in. Use props and puppets – something to look at and hold keeps children interested.

Making ten minutes a day to share books with your child will make a huge difference to their development.

North Lincolnshire Council
www.northlincs.gov.uk

COUNCIL Putting our CUSTOMERS FIRST
North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group

Some information taken from 'Talk to your Baby' - the National Library Trust - October 2012



Our 'Register Today' poster which will be translated into key languages, 'Top Tips' poster and new business cards with QR code.

BOOKS, BABIES & BONDING – IL PhD Report

The North Lincolnshire scheme is so successful it was selected to help carry out international research on Imagination Library books and how families use them. Research was carried out by Caroline Zwierzchowska-Dod PhD researcher and supervised by Dr Janet Goodall from the School of Education, Swansea University.

Parents were sent a comprehensive survey about the scheme, with a prize draw for taking part. There were more than 700 replies, with a massive percentage saying they looked forward to receiving the books, especially during lockdown, and that they helped them share special moments with their child. Parents responded in their hundreds to praise North Lincolnshire Council's Imagination Library, which sends a book every month to every child under five across North Lincolnshire.

Abi and two-year-old AJ won a signed photograph of Dolly Parton. Abi said: "The books are fantastic! My little boy's nursery has commented on how imaginative he is and the way he is able to express himself. I am sure this is due to sharing so many great books with him. His favourite Imagination Library book is The Hungry Caterpillar."

Jen, with daughter Ava and son Toby, won a signed copy of Dolly Parton's book A Coat Of Many Colours. Jen said: "I feel privileged to receive the books. My little boy talks about one book in particular he calls the Monster book and which he takes everywhere with him. He is only two, but I'm convinced his advanced development is partly down to his interest in the books, his attempt to copy the words I read out and act out the characters. It would be amazing if every child could experience such joy before they start school. Thank you so much to everyone who makes this scheme possible."

Cllr Rob Waltham, Leader of North Lincolnshire Council, said:

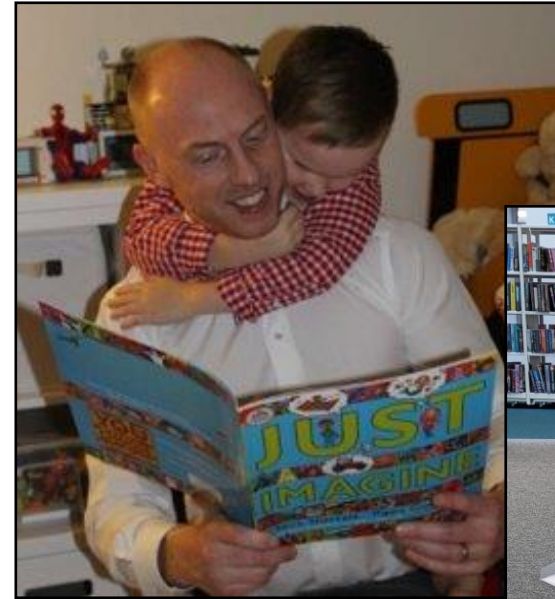
"This proves what we knew all along – the Imagination Library is a fantastic way of giving children a love of reading. I would encourage every parent of young children to sign up."



BOOKS, BABIES & BONDING – IL PhD Report

The PhD report key findings were:

- Frequent reading was common in the respondent group, but higher in families receiving Imagination Library books.
- Parents identified a 'nudge' factor through the monthly book arrival.
- Bonding was the key benefit of book-sharing that parents identified for themselves and their child.
- Receiving Imagination Library books for 12 months or more correlated with improved academic outcomes at age 5.
- The curated book selection introduced new authors into the home and was highly valued by parents.
- Participation in the Imagination Library strengthened parent-child bonds through frequent reading, and by helping parents learn more about their child. Participation in the Imagination Library supported improved parental self-image and their attitudes towards sharing books with their children. **Read the full report here:**



Three families were interviewed from the North Lincolnshire cohort of respondents.

- **Michelle** is an independent parent in her early twenties and is white British. She is a mother of two children, a ten month old girl, and a boy of two years seven months.
- **Marie and Kim** are the mothers of one child who is 20 months old.
- **Joanna** is a Polish mother of three. Joanna’s interview was conducted via an interpreter.

When thinking about her reasons for reading with her children, Michelle described the importance of family relationships, “I think it helps to create the bond between the child and the parents and also the siblings who are sharing the book.”

She described how she found that reading ‘relaxes them’ and that they read through the day but particularly as ‘down time’ before bed. Michelle said that both of her children enjoyed books and stories, and throughout the interview her son was bringing books to show, including his favourite ‘The Gingerbread Man’.

Michelle shared how he brings stories to her to read and will choose this instead of playing with his toys. Michelle specifically shares books with her daughter too, giving her a book alongside toys to choose from. “She sits in a chair and reads, it looks like she’s reading it properly.”

When asked about the role reading together plays in their family, Kim referred to their journey as a gay couple to have their son, “Because it’s a bit of a different situation, [our son] isn’t a child that you just have...it was very much ‘arranged’, so for me it’s a very content feeling and makes us feel like a real family unit, and it’s these little things like reading together and having meals together that make us feel more engaged and it feels like ‘the norm’ and acceptance.”

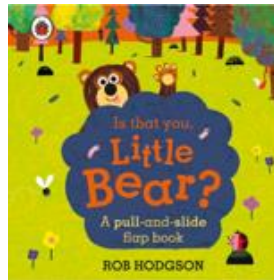


Joanna thought that the process of shared reading brings them together and that her daughter feels more loved because of it. Because of the closeness of the process her daughter feels more confident to gain new vocabulary and can translate what happens in the books into her real-life experiences.

When describing what happens when an Imagination Library book arrives, Marie described her own excitement as well as her son's. "I get very excited [laughs] 'IT'S NEW BOOK DAY!' [our son] runs on the spot like happy feet,". When it is opened, "he sits down with me and we'll read it and then that book seems to be like his favourite until the next one comes."

Thinking about receiving the Imagination Library books, Michelle described how her son says 'book' most days when he hears the postman coming as he knows that he gets a book in the post each month. Her little girl doesn't yet understand about the postman but Michelle always opens them with the children and they read them straight away.

Michelle had noticed that her little boy is particularly drawn to colourful books and her little girl likes black and white pictures at the moment. She was very clear on her children's favourites and her son in particular was very enthusiastic about the books she held up to show, talking animatedly when Michelle showed the "When I Grow up...Builder' book.



When she chooses books for her children, Joanna looks for books that teach something, particularly those that teach positive social interactions and life skills. She likes books that, for example, teach children about animals and encourage them to make noises. Joanna is also influenced by colourful illustrations, particularly those that encourage children to retell their own stories.



When an Imagination Library book arrives, Joanne's children ask which one of them it is for and ask questions about what it is about. They always want to read it straight away.

When asked if the Imagination Library had made a difference to her family, Michelle said that "Books can be expensive at times," and noted that with two children receiving books "It helps to grow their book collection up a lot faster than what we would have been able to do." She felt that it "helped the family a lot" as well as being a "present for the children."

"It's really good to get free books... we're able to go out and buy things but some families can't afford to buy children new books each month." Marie said "It's like there's no excuse not to read."

Feedback from the survey



“The book is addressed to my child, which is exciting and will become exciting for her as she grows up. The fact the book is free is amazing as it will promote a joy of reading - it's like a prize”



“It is amazing. Imagination library has helped us so much. We would struggle to afford the number of books we have received”



“These books are absolute gems! Many of the books I would not have personally bought myself, but my child has treasured and LOVED every single one. It has reminded me of books I have grown up with, the classics as well as new books”



“We really enjoy receiving the books and can see it will be something my child will look forward to each month as she grows and becomes more aware. Receiving the books has given us a wider variety of different books, including books which promote diversity/culture which is highly beneficial and something which I will promote with my child as she grows”

“My twin girls absolutely adore receiving their books. They have one each so it means they can look at their own whilst we all read together. We read our imagination library books at least 5 times a day and we always look forward to the next one arriving. Huge thank you for putting on such a fabulous scheme and making it possible for us to have such a huge variety of books to choose from”

“My son (4) loves us reading him books and looks forward to his new book arriving each month. Our daughter (18 months) would have us reading to her all day long especially if it has 'ammmm' (animals) in it. The books have been a great way to bond as a family and we often go on to buy more of a particular author after reading on from the imagination library”

“I think the books are a great service we read them all it also means when a child moves on from me home/adoption etc. they usually have a lovely set of books to go with them of stories they are familiar with which can help them settle especially at bed time.

Reading is something we start with the children from the day they are placed with us as most have speech delay and are unhappy, a cuddle with a book it is easier to accept then a cuddle from a stranger at first (we usually have under 3 year olds).

Some of the children have never been read to so soon they like the idea of their own books especially when I am using my budget to get essentials like clothes shoes etc. In short I think it is a fab and important service. A new book is a great way to remind me to read too”
- **Foster Carer**










“It has been amazing to receive books from Imagination Library every month through the post. All my children look forward to receiving books whether it's for them or not (two older girls don't get the books anymore). [My 3 and 4 year olds] love being read to and enjoy looking at the pictures. My only criticism is that children don't receive books after the age of five which is such a shame because we LOVE the books”.
- **Anwara**

“I took the books to our resource base yesterday and they will soon be ready to be distributed to the rest of the children (I delivered a selection of books to one family yesterday which brought a great smile face when the boy opened the door and found the bag on the door handle whilst I stood behind the gate). Some of our staff have already started sharing books virtually too. Can't thank you enough for your donations!”
- **Ilona Szolc - Lead Teacher, Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service**



Children & Families Literacy Offer 2022

							
Imagination Library	Words Count	Family Learning AECL	Communication Counts	Children's Libraries	Study United	North Lincolnshire Children's Literacy Trust	Literacy Partnerships
<p>Universal Book Gifting & Book Gifting Admin</p> <p>IL Development <i>i.e.</i> raising awareness with partners</p> <p>IL Monthly Posters</p> <p>IL Termly Updates & EY Cluster Meetings</p> <p>IL Ideas Sheets created in partnerships with Notts & West Berks LA's</p> <p>SLACK Forum</p> <p>IL Monthly Newsletter</p> <p>Parent Partnership Training</p> <p>300 IL Community Champions</p> <p>IL Support Visits to schools & settings</p>	<p>Power of Words Annual Family Literacy Festival</p> <p>Reading Champion Training</p> <p>Reading Mentor Training</p> <p>Firefighter/Police Reading Champion programme</p> <p>Parent Reading workshops</p> <p>Songs & Rhymes Training for parents/professionals.</p> <p>Songs and Rhymes Training for Community Hub Staff</p> <p>IL Book Chatter Training for Early Years Students, apprentices & TA Students.</p> <p>Theory on Boys Training</p>	<p>Baby Massage</p> <p>Baby Sign Language</p> <p>Baby Yoga</p> <p>Baby Play</p> <p>Baby ESOL</p> <p>Let's Move Together</p> <p>Let's Play and Explore</p> <p>(All above includes key messages CLL and importance of books)</p> <p>Baby Book Chatter</p> <p>Toddler Book Chatter</p> <p>Pre- School Book Chatter (targeted and to support transition)</p> <p>Story Sacks</p>	<p>Development of Pre-school offer for parents linked to CC and IL (In development – to launch 2023)</p> <p>ELIM</p> <p>Speech and Language Support</p> <p>Tiered Training offer for professionals</p> <p>Partnership working linked to publicity materials / posters / dummy leaflet</p> <p>Promotion of key messages <i>i.e.</i>, Drop the dummy.</p> <p>Solihull Training</p>	<p>Universal Library Explorer Sessions (Weekly)</p> <p>Universal Chatter books sessions</p> <p>Book Start – Toddler Pack partnership working with HVs / Community Nursery Nurses / Family Workers Childrens Centre groups +CPD (Targeted)</p> <p>Book Start Pre-Schooler Pack – partnership working with school nurseries and some PVI's + CPD (Targeted)</p> <p>Book Trust – EAL / Additional needs book packages</p> <p>Book Trust – Time to Read + CPD (Universal)</p>	<p>Supporter 2 Reporter (Primary offer)</p> <p>Supporter 2 Reporter (Secondary offer)</p> <p>Scunthorpe United Reading Stars (Primary offer)</p> <p>Scunthorpe United Reading Stars (Secondary Offer)</p> <p>Game of Two Halves (Secondary Offer)</p> <p>Community engagement <i>i.e.</i>, Discover Event</p> <p>Lego & Lunch</p> <p>Limitless Lego</p> <p>20 Year Celebration Event</p>	<p>Making Big Memories with Little Babies – NICU Book Gifting Programme with Health Tree Foundation</p> <p>North Lincolnshire Year of Reading 2023 (Partnership with all areas)</p> <p>Breakfast & Books sessions in holidays</p> <p>Free Little Libraries in rural locations <i>i.e.</i>, Belton Visitor Centre</p> <p>Grant Funding for allocated projects <i>i.e.</i>, SSE & <u>Qngo</u> funding for Family Literacy Kits. <u>Wrendale</u> funding for Secondary School Reading Projects. KCOM funding to purchase books for children starting school.</p>	<p>The Rabbit Hole <i>i.e.</i> No Limits Festival</p> <p>The Rotary Club <i>i.e.</i>, Rotary Writing Competition and Festival of Christmas Tree's Storytelling</p> <p>Local Authors <i>i.e.</i>, Addy Farmer, Mel Holliday etc</p> <p>Knit & Natter Groups <i>i.e.</i>, creating story characters.</p> <p>Positive Activities <i>i.e.</i>, Funding purchase of books for Year of Reading Dragon Projects</p> <p>ACE Bids <i>i.e.</i>, Creative Funding to create Let's Get Ready for School Book, Bag Full of Stars etc.</p> <p>ASDA/TESCO - Support key events and projects</p>

2022

Over 3000 IL Newsletter Subscriptions

IL Author Rashmi Sirdeshpande Author Workshops

New Business Cards with QR Codes and development of registration tracking

Co-delivery of Antenatal Parent Workshops

IL Book Chatter Family Courses in targeted communities

Pre-School IL Book Chatter Transition Sessions

Knit & Natter groups create IL Bunnies

Development of IL posters to be translated into key languages

2023

10 Year Birthday Celebrations – Extravaganza events in each locality

Dollywood UK Conference in North Lincolnshire

North Lincolnshire Year of Reading

Development of pre-school offer

IL Author Visits – Nick Sharratt

Launch of Book Chatter Week

IL links to Family Hubs Start for Life

Continued development of partnership working



"I'm so excited to help celebrate 10 years of Imagination Library in North Lincolnshire next year! Thank you so much for helping put books in the hands of children and families in your community. Congratulations, and here's to another 10 years of success!"

~Dolly Parton

"We are looking forward to celebrating with our friends in North Lincolnshire next year. With 86% of eligible children registered, North Lincolnshire is a shining example of an authority that is serious about embedding Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in its approach to literacy development. The impact of the Imagination Library has been demonstrated year on year, and after a decade this truly represents an investment in a generation of children and their families."

~ Marion Gillooly, Director Dollywood UK

Developing the home family learning offer

We recognise that book ownership is important, but in North Lincolnshire we know that it is how the book is used in the home learning environment that has the most impact on outcomes for children. The wider workarounds each book is invaluable in maximising the learning opportunities made possible by children receiving high quality books into the family home. Therefore we....

- Work directly with families and children in targeted communities modelling book engagement, quality dialogue and activity around the books, e.g. Book Chatter.
- Producing and distributing ideas sheets to enhance the use of the books in the home learning environment, increasing the number of families and professionals that access these.
- Delivering CPD and training opportunities to support and upskill the current and future workforce in maximising the learning, attachment and engagement opportunities utilising the book resources, as well as training on a range of literacy themes, support and interventions.
- Work closely with our key partners and multi agencies, including early years settings, schools, and health professionals to support awareness and pathways to encourage parental sign-up to the Imagination Library scheme and to use the books as tools for engagement and support on a range of themes, e.g. health & hygiene, school readiness, family, bereavement, diversity
- Work with partners to identify target groups of families that need our support and where needed develop bespoke courses to meet their needs e.g. SEND Book Chatter group.

Families who recently attended our IL Book Chatter course at Oasis Parkwood made boats out of scrap paper. They used their props to sing Row, Row, Row your boat, linked to the IL book MR Grumpy!



Literacy Beyond 5.....

Words Count is the local literacy strategy, which raises awareness of the importance of literacy and supports the development and delivery of literacy-based training and programmes for children, young people and adults. Some examples include:

- Firefighter/Police/Community Reading Champions and Volunteers
- Parent Reading Workshops
- Reading Buddy/Mentor training
- CPD for parents and professionals I.e. Our Brilliant Boys
- Scunthorpe United Reading Stars
- Supporter to Reporter
- Power of Words Annual Literacy Festival
- Rotary Club Young Writers Competition
- A Bagful of Stars
- Year of Reading 2023 – In partnerships with North Lincolnshire Children's Literacy Trust



Supporting family's health & wellbeing through books and partnership working

Mindfulness Morning – Family Learning Festival

Over 100 families attended our first Mindfulness Morning at Ashby Hub. A partnership event including NLC teams, Health teams, Local/National charities and local businesses. The event provided an opportunity for families to learn ways to manage their health & wellbeing, seek support/advice from local professionals, find out about the Reading Well – Shelf Help collection in libraries. Mel Holliday, the author of *Breathe with Bruce* A Book showed children how they can manage their anxiety and feelings using breathing techniques, including blowing bubbles!



Mindfulness Morning
 Calling all Families!
 Come and take some time out with us this halfterm.
Wed 26th Oct
9.30am- 12.30pm

- Breathing buddies
- Mindfulness (colouring)
- Positive activities & Positive thinking
- Calming crafts
- Worry dolls
- Yoga & relaxation room
- Free healthy snacks & drinks
- Wellbeing techniques with Mel Holliday author of *Breathe with Bruce*
- Support services available to talk to, i.e. school nurses, CAMHS & Mind

Bring a sock to create your own sock buddy!

@ Ashby Community Hub
Ashby High Street
Scunthorpe
DN16 2UT

ADULT EDUCATION & COMMUNITY LEARNING
 Orsted Grant Provider

North Lincolnshire Council
Family Learning Festival 2022
15-30 October

NHS Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust
Creative Therapy
 For Children & Young People

Our hubs and libraries provide universal literacy-based activities for children, young people and families, including:

- Library Explorers
 - Chatter Books
 - Sensory Storytelling Packs e.g. Rhyme Challenge & Reading Sparks Loan Bags
 - Summer Reading Challenge
 - Author/Illustrator/Poet visits and workshops
 - Storytelling events and activities
 - Book themed events and activities
 - Shelf Help – Reading Well
 - School/Nursery Library visits
 - Breakfast & Books
 - BookStart Storytime
 - BookStart Time To Read
 - Reading based projects e.g. Tremendous Transitions
- Children's Library staff are communication counts trained and are able to advise and refer families for support.



Our local charity allows access to funding and resources to further support children, young people and families.

- Making Big Memories with little babies has gifted over 500 Guess How Much I Love You Packs to families with babies at Scunthorpe General Hospital.
- Over 600 family literacy kits were provided during lockdown to support home learning.
- 30 Ukraine Packs received from Bookmark to support Ukraine children starting school, including tablets and dual language books.
- Breakfast & Books sessions ensure children have access to food and book themed activities during the main holiday periods, increasing Summer Reading Challenge participants.
- Free Little Libraries have been provided to support bringing books to children, in rural locations
- 300 'Starting School' books were gifted to families at the School Readiness event, to support families to be ready for their child starting school.
- Funding received for specific projects i.e., £5000 received from Wrendale Designs to support developing reading in Secondary Schools.
- Bookmark provided sets of 200 books to over 30 local schools.



[“Literacy packs boost children’s reading and writing skills - North Lincolnshire Council \(northlincs.gov.uk\)https://www.northlincs.gov.uk/news/literacy-packs-boost-childrens-reading-and-writing-skills/](https://www.northlincs.gov.uk/news/literacy-packs-boost-childrens-reading-and-writing-skills/)

www.childrensliteracytrust.co.uk

In North Lincolnshire we are fully invested in the belief that...

Our future will be shaped by what we do today. Science tells us that a child's experiences from conception through their first five years will go on to shape their next 50. It tells us that the kind of children we raise today, will reflect the kind of world we will live in tomorrow. It tells us that investing in the start of life is not an indulgence, but economically, socially and psychologically vital to a prosperous society

We know that gaps in achievement at school entry make up a sizable share of later achievement gaps; just one of the lifelong generational inequalities that could be avoided with the right intervention.

Baby Sign Language

Developing early communication and language skills through songs, singing and sign. This session focused on the IL Book Baby Touch Farm with families learning to sign different animals.



www.northlincs.gov.uk/schools-libraries-and-learning/imagination-library/

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North Lincolnshire Council

Useful links:

- [Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#)
- [Booktrust – tips on how to read with your child](#)
- [Hungry Little Minds – fun activities for you and your children](#)
- [Words for Life – fun stuff to do together](#)
- [Talking Point – information on children's communication](#)
- [BBC Tiny Happy People – here to help you develop your child's communication skills](#)
- Save the Children Research – [Read On. Get On](#), [Boost your baby or toddler's brain by playing this summer](#), [Too many boys in England fall behind before starting school](#)
- Literary Trust [Research Reports](#)
- Oxford University Press – [Help to Close the Word Gap](#)

