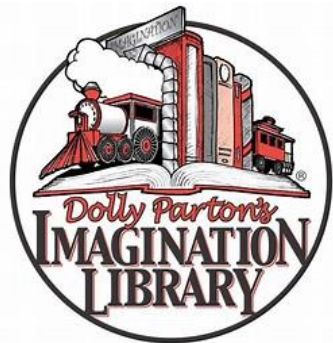


North Lincolnshire Imagination Library Annual Report 2023/2024

March 2024



NL Family

North
Lincolnshire
Council

**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 **6981** 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 a free 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, since 2013.



Councillor Julie Reed
Cabinet Member for
Children and
Families

Celebrating over 10 years of the North Lincolnshire Imagination Library

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

Our own research into the impact of the Imagination Library shows the benefits that registering with the programme has on children's achievement in the Early Years Foundation Stage and beyond.

We are hugely passionate about this scheme. It has provided a fantastic platform for literacy across our locality and inspiring the North Lincolnshire Year of Reading, as part of our recent 10th Birthday celebrations.

The leaders of our council see this as an invaluable tool to promote a love of reading and learning, which has proven significant benefits later in life including improved health and wellbeing, employment, skills and prosperity.



"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

DOLLYWOOD FOUNDATION UK

Invites You to Join Us as We Celebrate
NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL'S

10th
ten year

- BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION -
of Delivering Dolly Parton's Imagination Library!

20 January 2023
2-4 pm
Refreshments from 1:30 pm

Contact Helen Hastle
hhastle@imaginationlibrary.co.uk
for questions or further information

North Lincolnshire Council
www.northlincs.gov.uk

Wordscount

The North Lincolnshire Imagination Library – Latest Data (January 2024)

85%

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

934,000

- books have been gifted since the launch in 2013

26,280

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

6,981

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

17,681

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

4,626

- 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**. In 2023 & 2024 we were asked to share our story at the **Westminster Parliamentary Briefing** and the **UK IL Book Launch at Penguin Random House Publishers**.



NEW FOR 2024!! - The Data Dashboard

North Lincolnshire Council
Imagination Library

Number of Registered Children by Age

| Total Years | Count of child_id |
|-------------|-------------------|
| 5 | 33 |
| 4 | 1538 |
| 3 | 1427 |
| 2 | 1490 |
| 1 | 1433 |
| 0 | 1228 |

| Ward | Registered Children | Possible Registrations (nhs OCT-2023) | Percentage |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Messingham | 24 | Infinity | |
| Burringham and Gunness | 103 | 105 | 98% |
| Axholme South | 165 | 162 | 102% |
| Ridge | 219 | 253 | 87% |
| Broughton and Scawby | 217 | 271 | 80% |
| Axholme Central | 262 | 281 | 93% |
| Kingsway with Lincoln Gardens | 250 | 296 | 84% |
| Axholme North | 347 | 361 | 96% |
| Bottesford | 346 | 385 | 90% |
| Burton upon Stather and Winterton | 365 | 396 | 92% |
| Ashby Central | 396 | 423 | 94% |
| Brigg and Wolds | 365 | 441 | 83% |
| Ferry | 414 | 447 | 93% |
| Barton | 397 | 457 | 87% |
| Frodingham | 503 | 535 | 94% |
| Ashby Lakeside | 451 | 551 | 82% |
| Town | 493 | 590 | 84% |
| Brumby | 443 | 631 | 70% |
| Crosby and Park | 588 | 710 | 83% |
| Crosby and Park | 633 | 950 | 67% |
| Total | 6981 | | 85% |

Children registered this month

144

Children graduated this month

122

Children registered since launce (2013)

26.28K

Total books mailed

934K

Children currently registered

6981

Children currently registered (within 30% SOA)

2397

Current childrens centre registrations

4477

Registered Children, Possible Registrations and Percentage by Year and Month

Current Registrations

Referral Methods

| Referral Method | Count | Percentage |
|----------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Health Visitor | 350 | 39.15% |
| Other child(ren) who are or... | 140 | 15.66% |
| School, Early Years Setting,... | 123 | 13.76% |
| Word of Mouth | 103 | 11.52% |
| Other | 50 | 5.59% |
| Registrars (at birth registra... | 41 | 4.59% |
| Childrens Centre | 29 | 3.24% |
| Other social media | 16 | 1.79% |
| NLC Social Media | 1 | 0.01% |
| North Lincolnshire Librara... | 1 | 0.01% |
| Poster/Flyer/Banner | 1 | 0.01% |
| NLC Imagination Library W... | 1 | 0.01% |

We have been working closely with Innovation and Data Technology to create a Power BI dashboard for Imagination Library. This automated system is able to pull information from the many different sources that we have used historically to create our monthly reports, such as the North Lincolnshire Imagination Library web page and the Microsoft feedback forms.

With the recent ward changes, this system has also enabled us to match all our registered children into the correct wards thus allowing us to continue to carefully monitor where registrations are high or low.

This system can identify duplicated registrations and can therefore show more accurately how many children have benefitted from the scheme. We are also hoping that we can use this in conjunction with the Capita system to more closely analyse the take up rate of our 4 – 5 year old children.



2013

The launch of Imagination Library in North Lincolnshire with events across all localities for children and families. All 'Looked After' children are included in the Imagination Library scheme. Imagination Library Champions are created, and Book Chatter training is provided. Data is collected to measure the engagement with and the impact of the scheme.



2014

Imagination Library celebrates its First Birthday in North Lincolnshire & we host the IL UK Conference. The 'Top Tips' for parents is developed, Booknics are launched (a picnic with a book!) and schools and early years providers are given the option to buy the yearly offer of Imagination Library Book. Gift of Books supported by 2 Year Funding grant and Weekly portage family sessions launched



2015

Literacy Gardens Project takes place on the Isle, 'Book Chatter' sessions are provided for young parents and parent and toddler groups are supported and developed, Words Count is launched and the North Lincolnshire Children's Literacy Trust. Work with Scunthorpe Rotary includes developing roles as Lead Champions and a Bagful of Stars Performance.



2016

Imagination Library and Words Count governor delivery goes live. The SLACK forum is established for Lead Champions and practitioners to share good practise. The Raising Attainment Family Literacy and Fathers Read Every Day Projects are launched, and North Lincolnshire are invited to speak at the Imagination Library UK Conference in Nottingham.



2017

Sensory Story Telling workshops take place and Book Trust sessions. The Neonatal Book Gifting scheme is launched and Words Count hold the 'More Than Words' conference. North Lincolnshire are invited to speak at the Homecoming Event at Dollywood, Tennessee and to brief and train the early Years Sector in Doncaster.



2018

Imagination Library celebrates 5 years with extravaganzas across all localities, Book Chatter is launched in libraries, and the Great North Lincolnshire Rhyme Challenge. The Power of Words Festival brings authors and illustrators to visit. Schools and settings take part in 'A Place Called Home'. North Lincolnshire speak at the UK imagination Library Conference in Doncaster.



2019

The 500,000th book is delivered in North Lincolnshire. The 'Books for Life' campaign is launched, and Parent Partnership Book Chatter Training is provided. The Intergenerational Rhyme Challenge project takes place with settings and care homes. Book Start Corner pilot is targeted in schools in areas of deprivation, Infant mental health and Communication Counts messages embedded in training offer.



2020

The Bookstart Corner Targeted Programme is launched, and Book Trust hold a Pyjamarama event. The story of 'Room on the Broom' come to life outside, Rhyme Challenge workshops are delivered, 'A Place Called Home' activity packs developed and delivered during the pandemic. North Lincolnshire's Ideas Sheets are shared with 40,000 children in the UK to support families in lock-down.



2021

Imagination Library author Ed Vere visits for the Power of Words Festival and Words Counts holds a Reading Conference, NLC are chosen to be part of the Swansea University & IL UK PhD Research Study. Launch of the newly designed ideas sheets supports the use of the books in the home. With over 350 IL Champions now trained, support visits continue through the Early Years Sector.



2022

New business cards with QR Codes are created and registration tracking is developed. Author Rashmi Sirdeshpande comes to visit as part of POW. Co-delivery of Antenatal Parent Workshops begins. Book Chatter Family Courses are offered in targeted communities as well as Pre-School Book Chatter Transition Sessions. Knit and Knatter groups produce IL bunnies. The 'Register Today' posters are translated into ten key languages.



2023

10 Years of Imagination Library in North Lincolnshire launches the Year of Reading. The Dollywood UK Conference is held at Normanby Park, followed by extravaganza events in all localities. Book Chatter Week launches and we receive visits from IL authors Nick Sharratt & Rachel Morrisroe. IL links with the new Family Hubs Start for Life offer and North Lincs visit Westminster for their Parliamentary event.



2024

IL author Louise Yates visits schools to mark the end of the Year of Reading. NLC staff attend the first ever UK Book Launch at Penguin Random House. Peep training given for staff across the wider team. The ideas sheets are brought in house to provide a local context. Over 4600 people are now subscribed to the IL Newsletter. Power BI helps us to identify target wards. We are now looking forward to celebrating the delivery of our 1000,000th book in North Lincolnshire.

Impact of the Imagination Library in North Lincolnshire

Collecting & Analysing Data

- Since 2016 we have tracked our children, collected data and analysed the impact of the IL on children's outcomes at all key stages

Children registered with IL continually out-perform their peers

- Since 2016 our data consistently shows us that children who are registered with the IL generally outperform their peers at all the key stages – EYFS, Phonics, KS1 & KS2

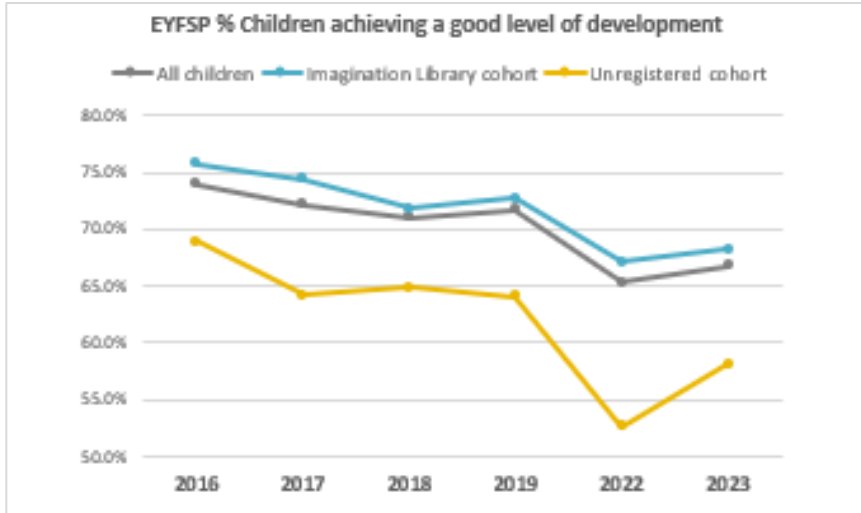
Making a difference to key groups of children

- Our data shows us that the IL makes a real difference to children who don't always have the same opportunities as some of their peers or are at risk of underachieving, notably summer born boys, SEN and children who are not British

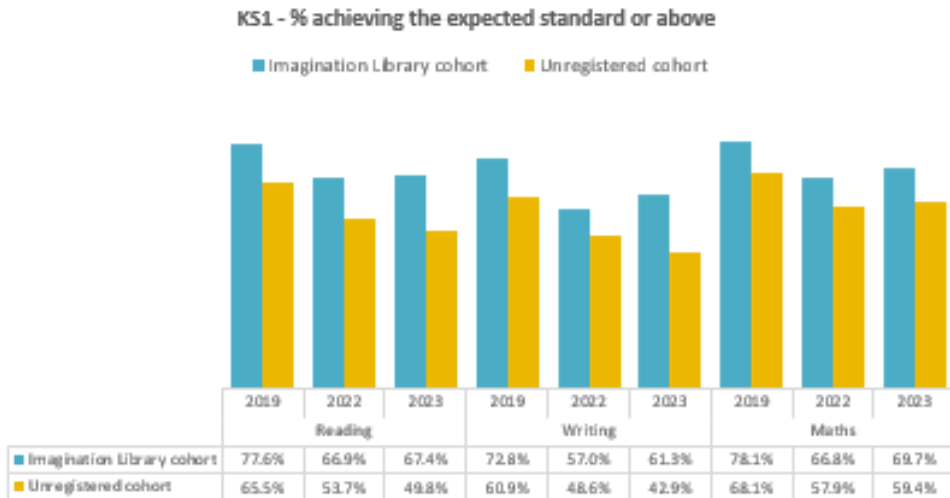
Children perform better in other subjects too

- The impact is not just confined to better results in communication, language and literacy. Children who receive the IL books, all generally get better outcomes in maths & writing!

Impact of the Imagination Library



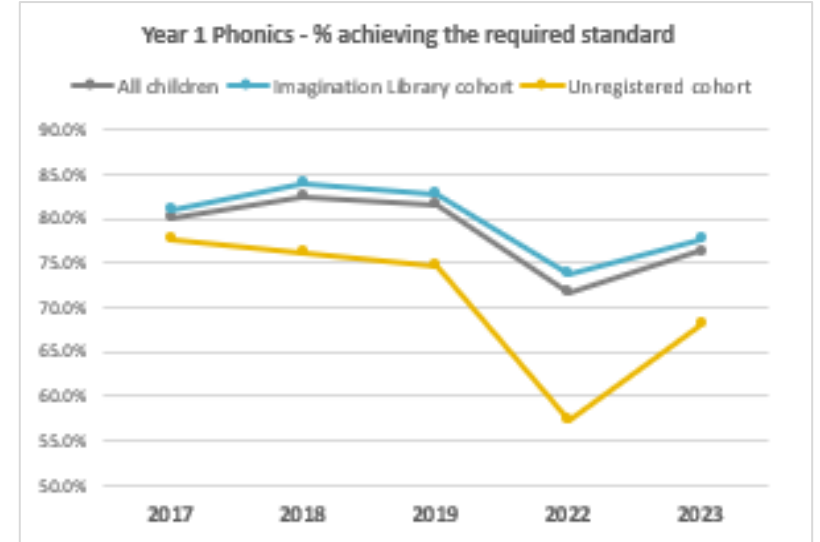
Current picture – in 2023 children registered to the Imagination Library outperformed their non-registered counterparts by 10.1 percentage points.



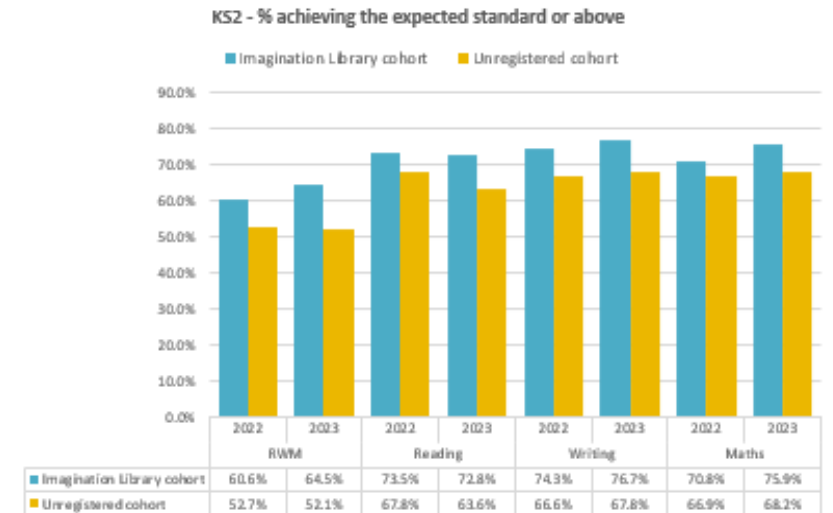
Our research shows that **children registered with the Imagination Library achieve better outcomes than those children who are not registered – at age 5, age 6 and at age 7.**

The evidence continues to show that **this impact can be seen at the end of KS2** where children registered with the scheme continue to outperform their peers at age 11.

The North Lincolnshire Imagination Library



Current picture – In 2023, children registered to the Imagination Library outperformed their non-registered counterparts by 9.5 percentage points

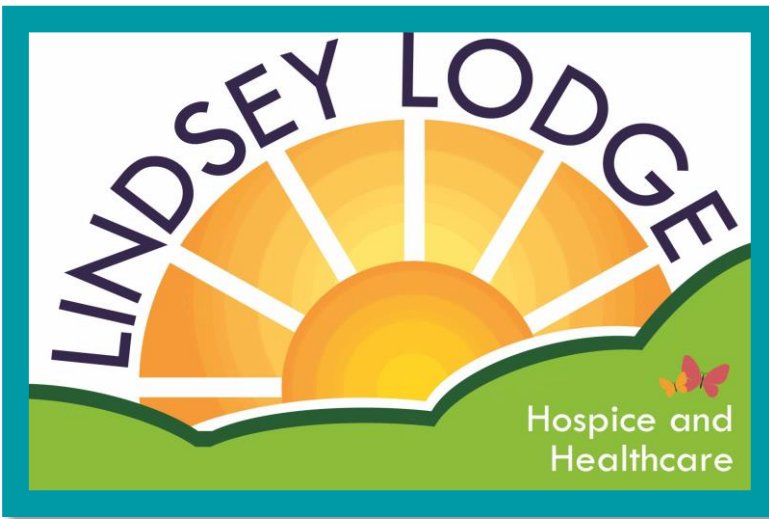


Imagination Library – A Green Future

Contributing to the NLC **A Green Future Strategy**, Imagination Library North Lincolnshire, Dollywood UK, and Central Mailing Service (CMS) continue to look to ways to reducing the environmental impact of our programme delivery.

The Imagination Library book delivery packaging is now fully **carbon neutral and fully compostable**. Some of the ways CMS has reduced their carbon footprint is through; reducing packaging, using recycled materials; using vegan glue, better logistical planning, 100% recycling of book waste and use of solar power at the manufacturing site.

We also frequently remind our families of our 'Books For Life Campaign' encouraging recycling and repurposing of their unwanted books, including donating to schools, pre-schools & charities.



Books for life

All children under five in North Lincolnshire can receive a free book every month from the Imagination Library.

Sign your child up from birth and they'll receive 60 books in total to help start a lifelong love of books and reading.

Once your child has graduated from the scheme, continue sharing stories together through your local library.

Find out more at www.northlincs.gov.uk/booksforlife

The book titles chosen by the Book Selection Committee cover a range of titles and topics and include fiction and nonfiction books. The committee use the CLPE Reflecting Realities Research to help ensure that the themes and concepts in the books are age appropriate, reflect emerging themes and that children can see their own experience reflected in the stories.

Examples of books to support the green agenda from 2023 - 2024



Examples of books to show diversity from 2023 - 2024



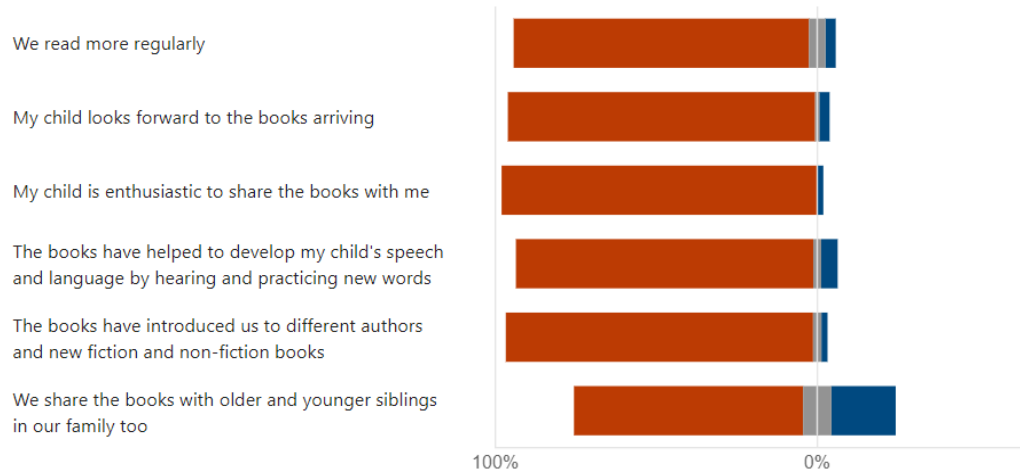
Examples of books focusing on healthy lifestyles from 2023 - 2024



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



My son has learning disabilities and ASD, my daughter has a communication delay - these books have been vital for their education.

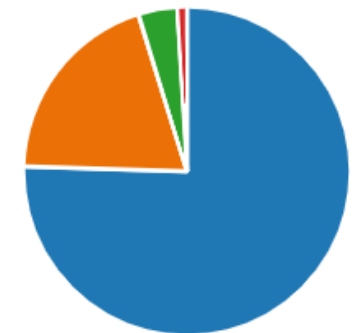
Rectangular

It makes my daughter feel very special when the book arrives and creates an opportunity for us to put down what we are doing and spend time together with her new book.

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

[More Details](#)

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Excellent | 157 |
| Very good | 41 |
| Good | 8 |
| Okay | 2 |
| Not very good | 0 |



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. 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.**



Such an amazing service, both my children have enjoyed receiving and reading the books and will do for many years to come. Thank you so much 😊



The books have been brilliant for me and my child to sit together, bond, talk about new things and discuss what's happening in the books which has really helped his development



Bedtime routine of bath, book and then bed.

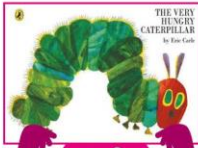
We have loved receiving these books, they made a great impact on bonding time and have assisted in creating an even greater love of reading. **** was able to share books via FaceTime with family because he was so excited about these coming to him with his own name on.

Reading the books through the post made my son feel special, he loved getting post like mum and dad, and it made us have more variety in our little book collection, which helped us with a bedtime/play routine.



Getting us closer and having family time whilst reading

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.



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/z762mfr

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, will bring the ideas sheets creation in house from June 2024. This will allow us to offer our families a more localised approach and allow us to promote local campaigns and key public health messages. For example, promotion of the 'NHS Healthy Start Scheme'. These sheets are sent to over 4600 local residents, every month.

In addition to these we send all our key partners a monthly 'Books delivered' poster, so that they know which books local children will be getting.

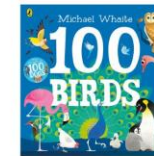
Marion Gillooly, Executive Director of The Dollywood UK said

'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.' The sheets are shared with over 5500 children in care across the UK.

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

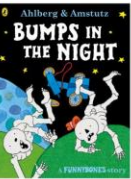


Books delivered in JANUARY 2024



Group 4 - Born in 2021: 100 Birds
Jail bird, snail bird, showing off his tail bird...find 100 feathered friends packed into the pages of this laugh-out-loud picture book. Look closely at the different birds on each page and use different words to describe them as you share the book with your child.

Group 5 - Born in 2020: Bumps in the Night
An adventure story about a family of skeletons and their dog. Can your child join in with the dark, dark' repeated parts of the story?



Group 6 - Born in 2019: Clean Up!
When you work as a team, you can change the world... Rocket can't wait to visit her grandparents on their beautiful island, but she soon sees how plastic pollution is spoiling the beaches and endangering sea creatures.

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.



North Lincolnshire Council
www.northlincs.gov.uk

BOOKS, BABIES & BONDING – IL PhD Report Findings

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.



The key report findings include:

- 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:**

<https://cronfa.swan.ac.uk/Record/cronfa60121>



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.”

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 a completed the 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. You can register on our website **Imagination Library - North Lincolnshire Council northlincs.gov.uk** or you can ask your local children's centre, local library, health visitor, schools, or early years providers about how to register.

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

North Lincolnshire Council | NHS North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group | COUNCIL Putting our CUSTOMERS FIRST

Vaizduotės biblioteka REGISTRUOKIS ŠIANDIEN
Šiaurės Linkolšyras dirba bendradarbiaudamas su "Dollywood Foundation"

Biblioteca de Imaginação REGISTE-SE HOJE
North Lincolnshire está a trabalhar em parceria com a Fundação Dollywood

امیجینیشن لائبریری آج ہی رجسٹر کریں۔
نورٹھ لینکلن شائر کے ساتھ شراکت میں کام کر رہے ہیں

North Lincolnshire Council | NHS North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group | COUNCIL Putting our CUSTOMERS FIRST

- Our 'Register Today' poster has already been translated into ten key languages:
- Arabic
 - Bengali
 - Kurdish
 - Lithuanian
 - Polish
 - Portuguese
 - Romanian
 - Slovak
 - Turkish
 - Urdu

- And coming soon...
- Pashto
 - Russian
 - Malayalam
 - Latvian
 - Panjabi
 - Tamil
 - Ukranian

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Imagination Library | Words Count | Children's Library | Study United | NL Family | Children's Literacy Trust | AECL | Best Start CC + | Community Partnerships |
| Universal Book Gifting | Reading Champion Training | Children's Promise | Scunthorpe United Reding Stars | Baby Massage | Making Big Memories with Little Babie's | Getting into Working in the Early Years | Schools Readiness | The Rabbit Hole |
| Data Collection & Analysis | Reading Workshops | Universal Library Explorers | Supporter to Reporter | Baby Sign | Year of Reading Events | Developing Children's Mental Health in the Early Years | Communcation Counts Sprinkling | Rotary Club |
| Raising Awareness, Pro motions, Ideas Sheets & Newsletters | Reading Mentor/Buddy Training | Library Visits | Game of Two Halves | Baby Yoga | Fundraising activities | L2 EY Mental Health Qual | Solihull Sprinkling | Local authors & creatives |
| Campaigns | Words Count Conference | Summer Reading Challenge | Lego Workshops | Baby Reflexology | Grants for specific projects i.e. Morrisons, Asda & Tesco B&B | Supporting Your Child's Anxiety | PEEP Sprinkling | Schools & EY settings across North Lincs |
| IL Book Chatter Training | Reading engagement events | Library Engagements events | Sphero Workshops | Book Chatter | Rotary/SSE Story Caravan | Anxiety Forum | EY Cluster Meetings | NHS 0-19 service |
| IL Support Visits | CPD/Training i.e. Songs & Rhymes | Chatter Books | Fuelled | PEEP | Severn Trent – Epworth Library | Super Slow Cookers (Multiply/UKSPF Funded) | EY Training Offer | Other NLC teams inc: Corporate Prenting, Fostering & Adoption, Healthy Lifestyles, Carers Support, Armed Forces hub etc |
| IL engagements events | Book Talk Training for NLC staff | Book Start StoryTime | Multiply | Let's Get Ready for Baby Antenatal Sessions | Creating Calm | | | |
| IL Termly Updates | | Breakfast & Books | Community Engagement events | Easy Peasy App Promotion | | | | |

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 workaroud 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 & Reading Together courses and workshops for parents/carers.
- 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. PEEP

Families who 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 Gumpy!



Delivering the family learning offer

NL Family

North
Lincolnshire
Council

peep
supporting parents and
children to learn together

Imagination Library books and information about the importance of the books, communication language and literacy and reading for pleasure feeds into all of our NL Family Hubs sessions, which includes:

- Baby Massage
- Baby Sign Language
- Baby Yoga
- Baby Reflexology
- Book Chatter
- Toddler Time
- PEEP 20-week programme & sprinkling

These sessions are delivered in Family Hubs, Community Hubs, Schools and other targeted venues.

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.



peep

supporting parents and children to learn together



In January and February 34 members of staff from across the Community and Family Engagement team, the Voluntary Sector, the 0-19 Service, Schools, PVI's, North Lincs Early Years team and Family Workers from the Family Hubs completed two days intensive training in the Peep Learning Together Programme.

PEEP is an evidence-based intervention that supports parents and children to learn together. **Peep sessions help parents find out how the little things they do make a big difference to their child's development by training practitioners to support the home learning environment through Peep Programmes delivered to families.**

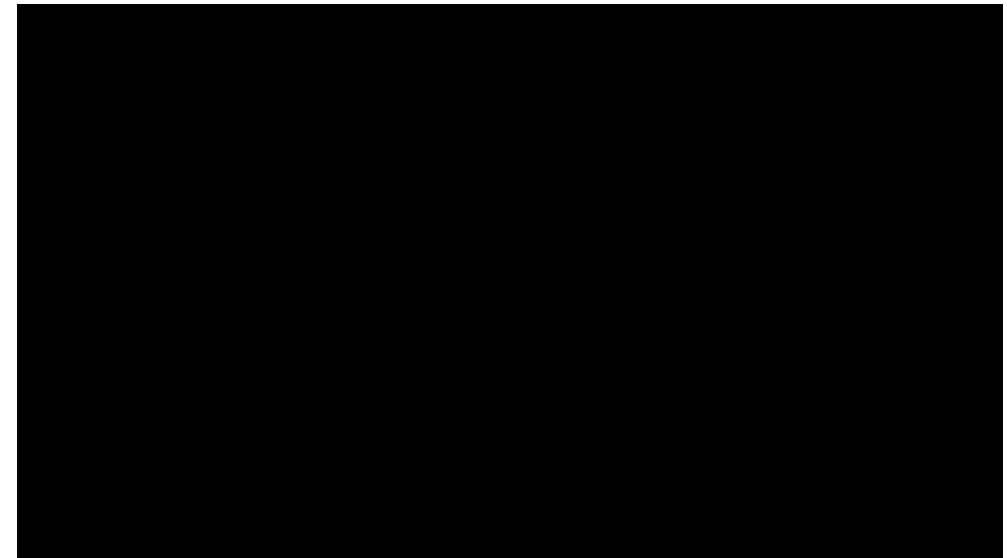


Peep has been chosen to be used within the Home Learning Environment strand of the Family Hubs offer. It will be delivered in discreet sessions by practitioners - Oasis Academy Henderson Avenue will be offering a 20-week course to targeted families which will be co-delivered by the Community and Family Engagement Team. Elements of Peep will also be used throughout sessions that are being delivered by partners across all the services that have received the training, such as Family Workers in Hubs and in family homes, the 0-19 Service and the Community and Family Engagement Team through family sessions such as Baby Massage and Toddler Time.

North Lincolnshire Year of Reading

In 2023, we marked 10 years of the Imagination Library with a Year of Reading. The year brought over 100 events and activities across North Lincolnshire, linked to reading for pleasure, including:

- Author Tours i.e. Patrice Lawrence
- Illustrator Workshops i.e. Nick Sharratt
- Poet Workshops i.e. Benjamin Zephaniya
- Draw Along Workshops i.e. Korky Paul
- Storytelling Sessions i.e. A Bagful of Stars
- Outdoor family theatre i.e. Bad Dad
- Indoor Family Theatre i.e. Pirate Bonnie
- 90,000 Books Gifted
- Competitions i.e. Book Themed Cake Off
- Book Themed Arts & Crafts
- Festivals i.e. POW & No Limits
- Summer Reading Challenge
- Community & YOR School Grants x 15
- Reading Conference & Training and more



Words Count & Study United

Linked to the NL Health & Wellbeing board strategic plan. Words Count 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. It provides an offer beyond 5 - when the IL stops being delivered.

The Words Count offer includes:

- Firefighter/Police/Community Reading Champions and Volunteers
- Parent Reading Workshops
- Reading Buddy/Mentor training
- CPD for parents and professionals I.e. Our Brilliant Boys and Songs & Rhymes Training
- Scunthorpe United Reading Stars
- Supporter to Reporter
- Game of Two Halves
- Lego Story Maker Sessions i.e. Limitless Lego & Lego & Lunch
- Words Count – Reading Conferences
- Time to Read (now linked to Imagination Library Books)



Our local children's charity provides access to funding and resources to further support children, young people and families across North Lincolnshire.

- In 2023 we celebrated over 5 years of our Making Big Memories with little babies' project, which has gifted over 600 Guess How Much I Love You Packs to families with babies at Scunthorpe General Hospital. We also raised another £2500 to buy an additional 500 packs.
- Grant funding from SSE Thermal supporting gifting over 350 copies of the book Everest Files to Year 5/6 children in Axholme North, plus they had author workshops with the writer Matt Dickinson. Remaining funds were used to gift 200 books to children at Althorpe & Keadby school during their Christmas Fair.
- £5000 Funding from Wrendale Design, supported 5 secondary schools to buy books and resources to support struggling and reluctant readers within their school.
- £5000 Funding from Foyle Foundation supported thousands of children to access free book inspired events during the Year of Reading
- Funding and food donations from Morrisons, Tesco, Asda & Fuelled helped to provide breakfast and books sessions in Scunthorpe, Riddings and Brigg, during the key holiday periods.
- Funding from the Rotary Club, has paid for family theatre and storytelling events in community hubs and community venues.
- Thousands of free books have been gifted by local and national partners, which were gifted to children, young people and families over the year as part of projects including Summer Reading Challenge, The Dragon Project, Needle in North Lincs, Corporate Parenting month.



www.childrensliteracytrust.co.uk

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

Mindfulness Morning – Family Learning Festival 2023

Over 300 people attended this year's Mindfulness Morning at Ashby Hub. A partnership event including NLC teams, Health teams, local charities and local community partners, authors and more. The event provides families with an opportunity to take part in activities that support managing their health & wellbeing, seek support/advice from local professionals, find out about the Reading Well – Shelf Help collection of books in libraries and listen to stories that support your child's mental health and wellbeing.



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
 Ofsted Good Provider

North Lincolnshire Council
Family Learning Festival 2022
15-30 October

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

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

- The Children's Promise
 - Library Explorers
 - Chatter Books
 - Sensory Storytelling Packs e.g. Rhyme Challenge & Reading Sparks & Ready, Set Read Loan Bags
 - Summer Reading Challenge
 - Author/Illustrator/Poet visits and workshops
 - Storytelling events and activities
 - Book themed events and activities
 - Shelf Help – Reading Well Books
 - School/Nursery Library visits
 - Breakfast & Books
 - BookStart Storytime
 - Reading based projects e.g. Tremendous Transitions
- Children's Library staff are communication counts and PEEP trained and are able to advise and refer families where they can access support with communication, language and literacy.

North Lincolnshire
Libraries



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.

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



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.

“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 -

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](#)

