



TENNESSEE'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY IMPROVES SCHOOL PREPAREDNESS

The Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) completed the first large-scale study on the Imagination Library's impact on the learning preparedness of children now enrolled in public schools.

In 2007, the Governor's Books from Birth Foundation® commissioned the TBR to solicit public school kindergarten and pre-kindergarten teachers' professional judgments on the **readiness and performance** of students who had participated in **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** – a program that mails a new, age-appropriate, hardcover book every month to registered children, from birth until age five, at no cost to the family and regardless of income.

Nearly 320 kindergarten teachers and over 150 pre-kindergarten teachers responded:

Tennessee kindergarten and pre-K teachers *collectively affirmed* that children who had participated in the Imagination Library were **"better prepared"** than students who had not participated in the program.

On average, Imagination Library participants also exceeded teacher expectations:

- **48%** of kindergarten teachers and **64%** of pre-K teachers stated that Imagination Library participants performed **"better than expected"** or **"much better than expected"** than students from previous classes.
- Compared to only 10% of kindergarten teachers and 11% of pre-K teachers reporting that non-participants performed **"better than expected"** or **"much better than expected."**

"This research underscores how reading to a child early and often improves their ability to succeed right from the start of their formal education. I hope these promising results will encourage all Tennessee families with children under age five to register for the Imagination Library and make a commitment to read with a child every day, starting at birth."

– Governor Phil Bredesen

