



Inspiring a love of reading...

Helena Barrett-Duncan, Scotland Regional Director,
The Dollywood Foundation UK





What we do

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library inspires a lifelong love of books and reading.

We post a brand-new book every month to children from birth until their fifth birthday. We do this by developing partnerships with communities to support their local children in the way that works best for them. Together we create a unique and exciting experience for families across the world, while children build their own home library of up to 60 books!

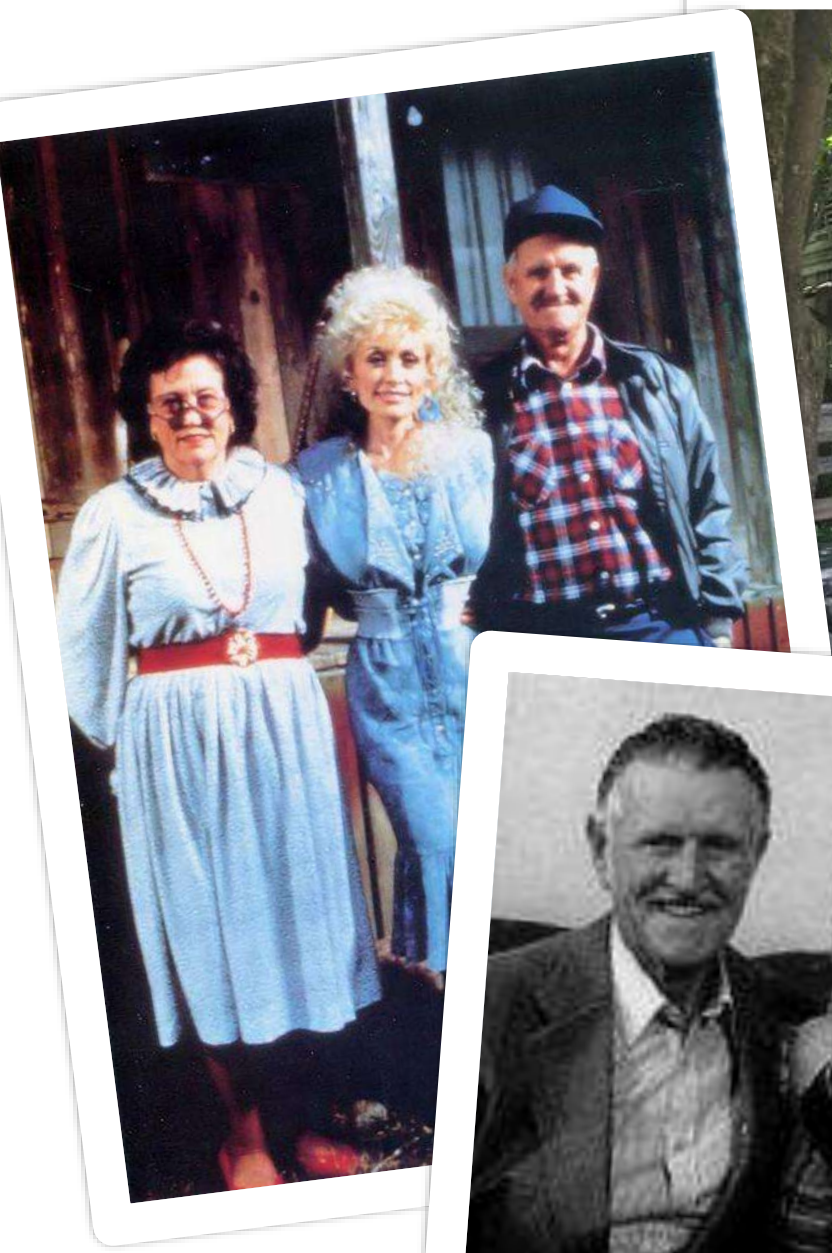
Delivered
directly to the
child at home

Arrive through
the post every
month

A collection of
60 carefully
chosen books

Available for
children from
birth until age
five





I created the Imagination Library as a tribute to my Daddy. He was the smartest man I have ever known but I know in my heart his inability to read probably kept him from fulfilling all of his dreams.

Polly

Book selection



GROUP 6 Children born in 2019

- Clean Up
- The Beastly Bunch
- When I Grow Up... Doctor
- The Three Wishes
- Wild Wild Wood
- Dog Loves Fairy Tales
- Pumpkin Soup
- Drama Llama
- The Artist Bog Baby
- The Greatest Show on Earth



GROUP 5 Children born in 2020

- Funnybones: Bumps in the Night
- Do You Know? Level 1 – BBC Earth Animal Families
- We're Going to Find the Monster
- Gretel the Wonder Mammoth
- Grumpy Monkey
- The Truth About Yeticorns
- 5 Funny Animals
- Don't Say Elephant!
- Diggersaurs: Mission to Mars
- My Magic Family
- Harriet the Strongest Girl in the World
- Poems Out Loud



GROUP 4 Children born in 2021



- 100 Birds
- Who's Going to Bed
- The Little Red Hen (Ladybird First Favourites)
- Flora and Nora Hunt for Treasure
- Geoffrey Gets the Jitters
- Flip, Flap, Find! Counting 1, 2, 3
- The Pirates on the Bus
- Crash! Bang! Wallop!
- There's a Dragon in Your Book
- Hey Duggee The Football Badge
- Alfie Gets in First
- If You're Happy and You Know It

GROUP 3 Children born in 2022



- Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?
- Shark in the Park
- Busy Day: Astronaut
- Find Spot: The Rainy Day
- Meg & Mog
- Magic Windows: My Body
- Pom Pom Gets the Grumps
- Little World: On the Train
- Mina and the Big Bite
- Little Pop-Ups: Little Red Riding Hood
- Ladybird First Favourite Nursery Rhymes
- My World, Your World



GROUP 2 Children born in 2023



- Peekaboo! Farm
- Where is the Very Hungry Caterpillar?
- Roald Dahl: Shapes
- Say Goodnight, Little Kitten
- Ladybird Photographic - 123
- Whose Nose?
- Baby Touch: Rainbow
- Baby Touch: Nursery Rhymes
- Ladybird Photographic - My Body
- Spot Goes to the Farm
- My First 100 Words
- Baby Touch: Night-Night



GROUP 1 Children born in 2024

- Baby Touch B&W Faces
- Peter Rabbit: Hello Peter!
- Moomin Baby: Words Tummy Time
- Concertina Book
- Baby Touch: Toys: A Black-and-White Book
- All About Me
- Baby Touch Colours
- Ladybird Photographic - Baby Animals
- How to Feed Your Cheeky Monkey
- Whose... Stripes?
- Baby Touch: I Love You



Ideas sheets

Ideas Sheets – October 2025

Use these sheets for top ideas to create more fun with your little ones' most recent Dolly Parton's Imagination Library book!



Welcome Book

Every child receives *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* as a welcome to the program

[DOWNLOAD WELCOME](#)



Group 1

Children born in 2025
Fun with Spot - Food (Contains 3 sheets)

[DOWNLOAD GROUP 1](#)



Group 2

Children born in 2024
Uh-oh Niko Bathtime

[DOWNLOAD GROUP 2](#)





Why we do it

'Kids who read succeed, kids who don't, don't'
(Homecoming 2025)

To inspire a love of reading and close the poverty related attainment gap

A love of reading, in crisis

- 1 in 3 children say they enjoy reading in their free time (National Literacy Trust)
- 1 in 8 children between ages 5-8 own no books of their own (National Literacy Trust)
- Only half of 0-4-year-olds are read to frequently. (Harper Collins)

Whether or not a child enjoys reading is more important to their educational success than their family background.
(OECD)

Frequent reading at home is one of only three factors proven to have an impact on the vocabulary gap between the most and least well-off children.
(Growing up in Scotland)

Increasing reading engagement could mitigate 30% of the attainment gap associated with socio-economic disadvantage.
Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Early childhood programmes, especially those for the most disadvantaged, offers high returns in investment, running from 7-10% for pre-school programmes and up to 13% for high quality 0-5 programmes.
Heckman

Books, Babies and Bonding

Dr Caroline Zwierzchowska-Dod, Swansea University, 2022

Key findings of the research project include:

- It **strengthened parent-child** bonds through frequent reading, and by helping parents learn more about their child.
- Parents identified a **'nudge' factor** through the monthly book arrival.
- Receiving Imagination Library books for 12 months or more correlated with **improved academic outcomes at age 5**.
- A universal offer of the Imagination Library supports **community cohesion** through developing shared cultural capital.
- Children in the Imagination Library for more than a year had a **40% increased chance of achieving the "Good Level of Development"** standard, and a **54% increased chance of achieving the Early Learning Goal for reading**, compared to children with similar characteristics who were not in the Imagination Library programme.



We share the books with older and younger siblings in our family



My child looks forward to the books arriving



I enjoy reading with my child more



We read more often



The books have helped develop my child's speech and language



My child is enthusiastic to share books with me

Key Findings

Groundbreaking International Study of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

1. Closes Literacy Gaps

In all countries, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library was found to have significant impact helping to prevent early literacy gaps that often persist through school.

2. Strengthens Home Literacy Environments

In all countries, children in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library were read to significantly more often than children not in the program.

3. Inspires Reading Globally

In all countries, children in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library were significantly more likely to enjoy books and engage in meaningful reading interactions.

4. Builds Positive Family Reading Habits

In all countries, the Imagination Library was found to significantly encourage family reading and build traditions around reading.

FACT

Research found that after just 10 books, children in the program were at least **4x more likely** to demonstrate stronger emerging literacy skills—such as vocabulary and phonological awareness—compared to children not in the program.

FACT

Children enrolled were **9x more likely** to be read to 4 or more days per week compared to children not in the program.

FACT

Children in the program were **9x more likely** to be interested in books and **15x more likely** to join in during shared book reading compared to children not in the program.

FACT

Caregivers around the world in the program were **6x more likely** to count images, **7x more likely** to describe images and **4x more likely** to let the child hold the book compared to caregivers not in the program.



United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland Impact

Groundbreaking Study of Dolly
Parton's Imagination Library



Children in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library were **5x more likely** to demonstrate alphabet knowledge compared to children not in the program.

Children in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library were **11x more likely** to initiate shared book reading compared to children not in the program.

Caregivers with children in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library were **6x more likely** to count images, **7x more likely** to describe images and **4x more likely** to let the child hold the book compared to caregivers who did not have children in the program.

Children in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library were **5.5x more likely** to spend time reading alone.

The average number of books in the household for children in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library **went up by 30**, compared to children not in the program.

Children in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library were **9x more likely** to demonstrate phonological awareness compared to children not in the program.



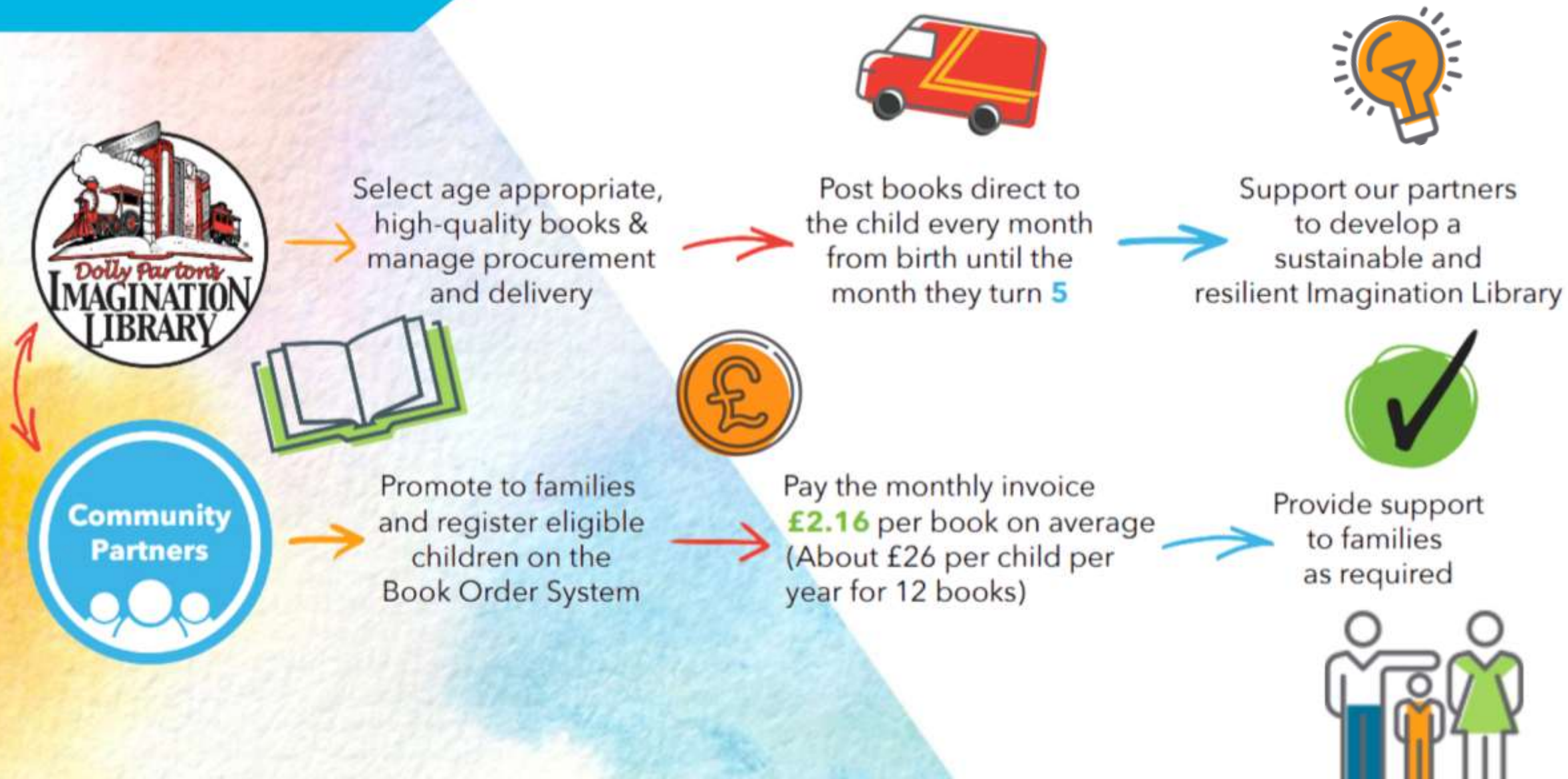
**'A parent's lap is the best seat in the house.'
(Lin Oliver)**



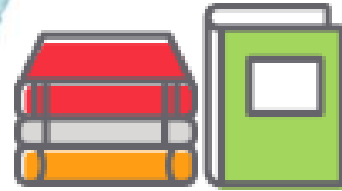
How we do it



How it works



In Scotland



Over 700,000 books mailed in Scotland since 2008

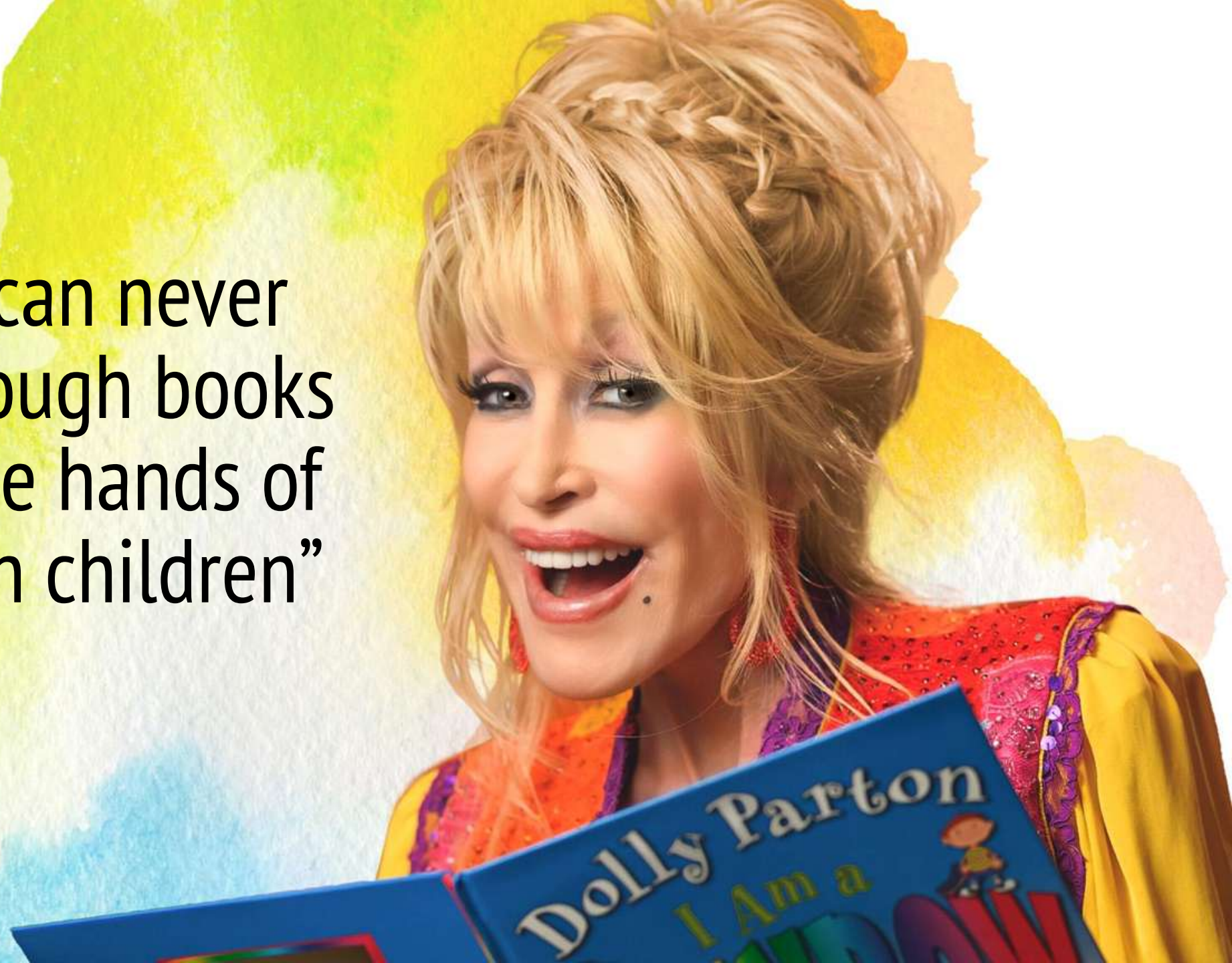


Over 9200 children receiving books each month



Local Programmes include – All Care-experienced children, Renfrewshire wide for ages 2-5, Wind farm funded communities in South Lanarkshire, Coalfields Regeneration Trust funded in Fife and East Ayrshire, Libraries focused programmes in Dundee

“You can never
get enough books
into the hands of
enough children”





Thank You!

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