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Changing Children's Lives One Book at a Time: A Study on the Impact of Shared Book Reading in Tamworth



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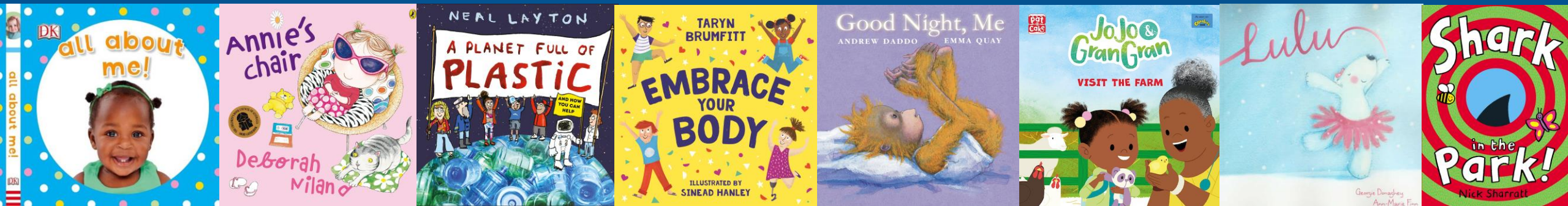




“Immunize kids against illiteracy, break out a book in infancy”

- American Academy of Pediatrics

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library



Imagination Library



Starts at 0

Eligible children can be enrolled from the day they are born, maximising their learning potential.



Free for Participants

No cost for families, ensuring accessibility for those experiencing disadvantage.



Low Barrier to Entry

Once a family opts in, books are posted monthly to the home with no collection required.



Operates in the Home

Books are mailed to houses addressed to the children, developing a strong home literacy environment.



Regular Book Delivery

A new book is mailed to participating families each month, growing a child's at-home library.



Books Kept & Collected

This allows children to grow their home library and enhance their home learning environment.



Reading Guidance

Caregivers receive tip sheets and online tools enhancing child engagement during reading activities.



Wraparound Approach

Caregivers are connected to child-related community services (e.g., health services, playgroups, libraries, etc.).

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Imagination Library Research: Sample Study, Tamworth (Australia)



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Tamworth

What did the study look like?

Longitudinal study over 3 years utilizing both quantitative and qualitative data

N = 89 caregivers and their children

Surveyed at birth, 6 months and at 3 years old



HOME
LITERACY
ENVIRONMENT

READING
ATTITUDES &
INTERACTIONS

EMERGING
LITERACY
SKILLS

Recruitment, enrolment and implementation

Recruitment and enrolment

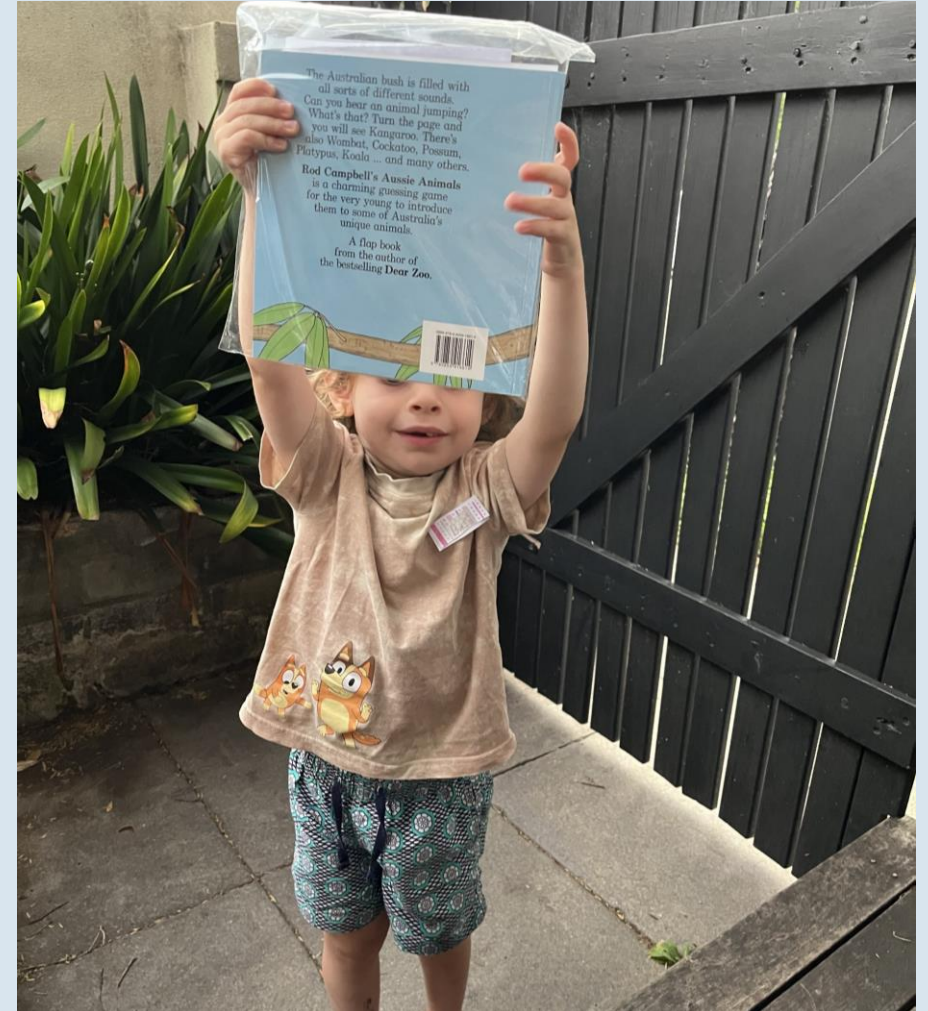
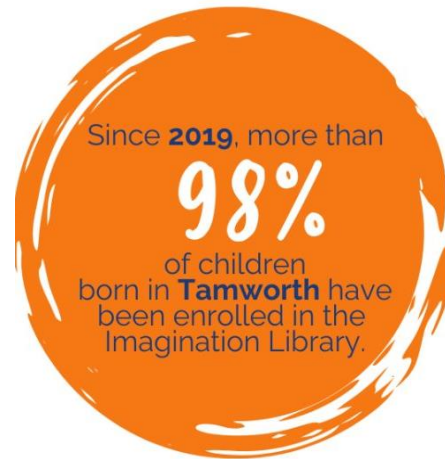
- Child Health Nurses at Tamworth Hospital

First month the child receives:

- A welcome letter from the mayor
- Library card
- Caregiver receives information on community events

Implementation

- First "whole of community" program in Australia
- Funded by Tamworth Regional Council, local businesses, and philanthropic support.



Key Findings: Home Literacy Environment

Children in the Imagination Library in Tamworth were being read to more often, for longer and had more books in the home than the average Australian child.

“Leaving the tip sheets on the fridge were another gentle reminder

- Parent of a child on the DPIL Program

Australian government research showed that children not read to at home are six times more likely to be developmentally vulnerable in areas like language and cognitive skills.*



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Key Findings: Home Literacy Environment

After receiving their first book at birth, caregivers who read to their child at least once per day were 5 times more likely to read daily at 6 months and 3 years than those who did not read daily

“I never knew reading to babies was a thing.”

- Parent of a child on the DPIL Program



Key Findings: Reading Attitudes and Interactions

Participation in the program supported the caregiver's role as the child's first teacher by establishing early, regular reading routines.



“The library has helped me so much and I am feeling more confident to read the books after watching the library lady read the program books out loud in the library.”

- Parent of a child on the DPIL Program

Key Findings: Reading Attitudes and Interactions

- 75% of children asked to be read to daily
- 70% of fathers were reading at least twice a week



“My child’s dad doesn’t know what to do with the baby but by getting the book it gives him the opportunity to read to her.”

- Parent of a child on the DPIL Program

Key Findings: Reading Attitudes and Interactions

Feedback provided by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander caregivers demonstrated the intergenerational impact of the program and how their children were able to identify with characters in the books

“My kids couldn't believe that kids of colour could fly a plane, they really looking into it a lot deeper.

- Parent of a child on the DPIL Program



Key Findings: Emerging Literacy Skills

The regular reading routines were maintained through to three years and were associated with improved emerging literacy skills in children by age three.

“Because the children all have access to the Dolly Parton books ... by every child getting the program ... they are familiar with the characters in the books, which gives children a connection

- Parent of a child on the DPIL Program

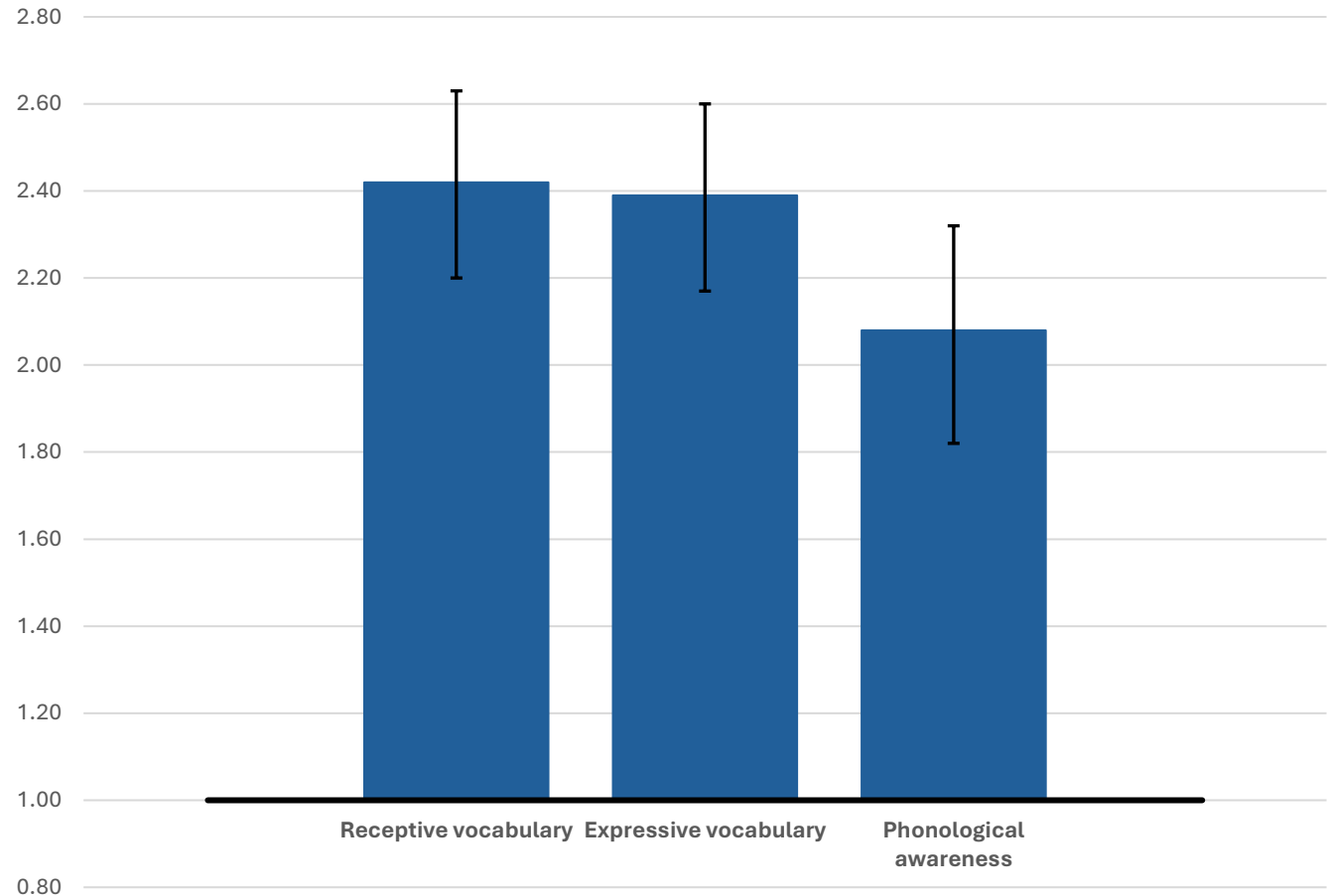


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From Tamworth to the globe: World's largest study on shared book reading

Findings from this research have now been validated from a global wide study on the impact of the Imagination Library which collected the largest dataset in the world on shared book reading.

Australian children in the Imagination Library were significantly more likely to demonstrate emerging literacy skills



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Next steps



Queensland Brain Institute

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY





"You can never
get enough books
into the hands of
enough children."

Dolly

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