

DOLLY PARTON'S Imagination Library



Reading with your child in different languages

There are many benefits to reading and sharing books with your child, and it's never too early to start. From a very young age your child will be learning about sounds, words and language from these experiences, and it will help their social and emotional development too.

Don't be concerned if English isn't your family's first language; what matters is that you share books with your child in whatever language or mix of languages you feel most comfortable with.

Here are some tips to get the most out of Imagination Library books, no matter what language you use:



Firstly, find a comfortable, quiet place where you won't be interrupted. This is your special one-on-one time and done daily, it will quickly become something you both look forward to.



Look at the cover and talk about what you see. Name each thing. If your child is old enough, ask them what they think the story is about.



Turn each page, taking time to explore the pictures and tell the story in your own words and language using the illustrations as prompts. As you do, encourage your baby to point, touch or handle the book. If they are older, your child can hold the book and turn the pages.



Try changing the tone of your voice as you talk about the pictures or tell the story. If the book reminds you of a song or rhyme, sing a little of it to your child.



For older children, ask questions and answer theirs. Talk with your child about the characters and the story, and what you think might happen next.

To find out more about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Australia please visit our website unitedway.com.au/imagination-library

