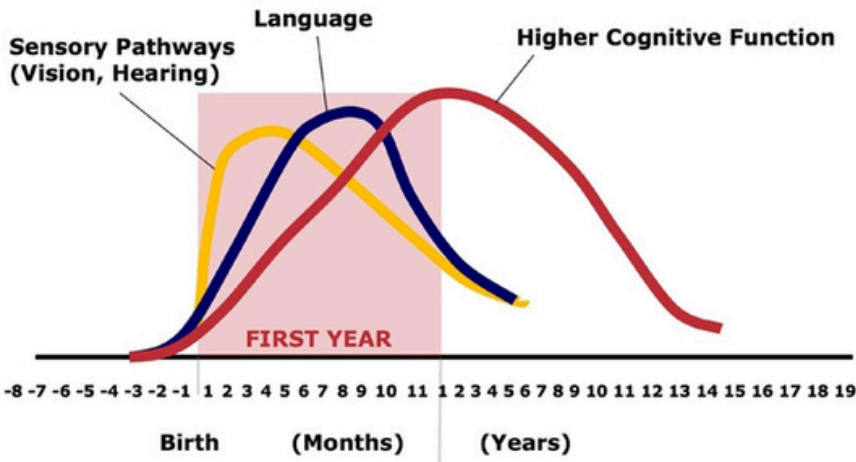


2023 IMPACT REPORT



WHY EARLY LITERACY MATTERS:



Cognitive processes develop rapidly in the first few years of life. At birth a baby's brain is only 25% of its adult size. In the first few years of life, a child's brain builds **1 Million** connections per second! By age three a child's brain will be 85% of its adult size. By the time a child enters kindergarten, their brain is nearly fully formed. (1)



85% of a person's intellect and social skills are developed by age 5.

95% of public investment in education occurs after age 5, when the most critical learning years have passed. (2)



Children in middle- and high-income homes have an average of 13 books per child.

Children living in poverty have an average of **1 book per 300 children.** (3)



Because of this, preschoolers from low-income families have fewer language and literacy opportunities than others - **a major reason why they lag behind** in reading achievement throughout the school years. (4)

Children growing up in homes with at least

20 Books

GET TWO YEARS MORE SCHOOLING

than children from bookless homes, independent of their parents' education, occupation, and class. (5)

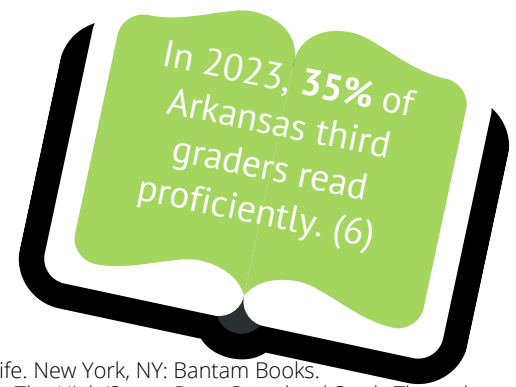


Chart: Human Brain Development, C.A. Nelson (2000). Credit: Center on the Developing Child

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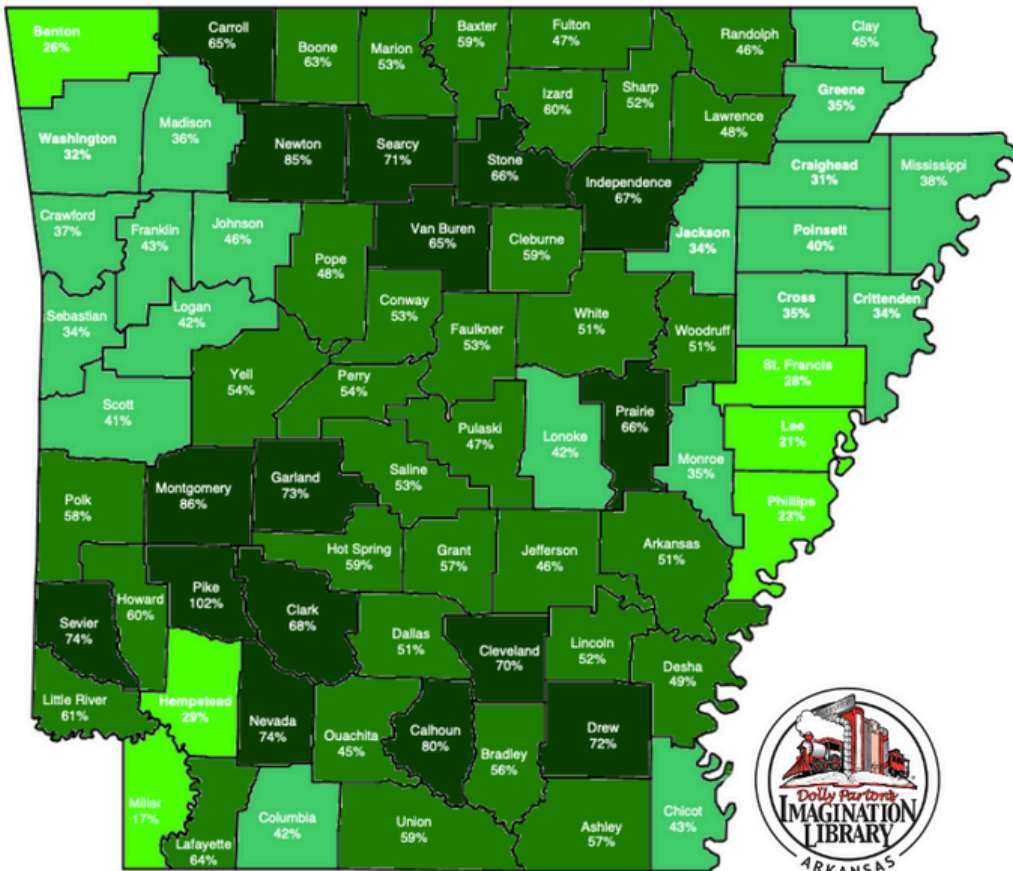
2023 IMPACT REPORT

HOW IMAGINATION LIBRARY AFFILIATES IN ARKANSAS ARE HELPING:

1,038,525 Books
were mailed to
Arkansas children in
2023.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Arkansas

45% of kids in Arkansas
between birth and age 5
are currently enrolled
(83,259 children).



Updated December 31, 2023

Percentage of children enrolled in each county. Enroll at ArkansasImaginationLibrary.org



4.6 Million

books (and counting)
have been delivered
since 2005.

More than
98,000

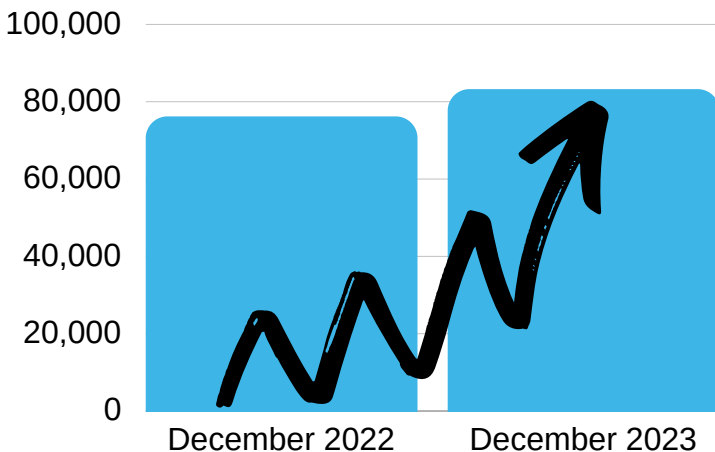
five-year-olds have
graduated from the
Imagination Library
program since 2005.

More than
80,000

Arkansas children age
0 to 5 are currently
receiving books.

43%

of Arkansas' 184,580
preschoolers are
enrolled in the
Imagination Library.



The number of books mailed to Arkansas
children monthly grew

9.25%
since December 2022.