

YOUR LOCAL IMAGINATION LIBRARY

RUTHERFORD BOOKS FROM BIRTH
CANNON BOOKS FROM BIRTH

United Way of Rutherford
& Cannon Counties



Your local Imagination Library, Rutherford Books from Birth and Cannon Books from Birth, builds a foundation for reading and learning for ALL children from birth to age five in Rutherford and Cannon counties by providing a new, age-appropriate book each month at no cost to the families enrolled. The United Way of Rutherford and Cannon Counties serves as the local sustaining partner of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, in partnership with the Governor's Early Literacy Foundation.

Addressing School Readiness Gaps

United Way works to identify and resolve pressing community issues by making measurable results. **Only 25% of kindergartners passed their school readiness assessments.** The school readiness gap becomes a domino effect that can predict a pattern of setbacks and future achievement gaps. Two-thirds of children who are not ready for school at the entry of kindergarten later fail third grade reading proficiency tests. **Only 42% of Rutherford County's third graders and 29% of Cannon County's third graders can read at grade level.** A national study shows that students who do not read proficiently by third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school. The readiness gap begins at birth and is often due to differences in children's resources such as the lack of books in the child's home.

Rutherford Books from Birth



15,000+ children enrolled



30,000+ program graduates



68% of the eligible population enrolled

Cannon Books from Birth



600+ children enrolled



1,600+ program graduates



70% of the eligible population enrolled

Imagination Library Participants Outperform Non-participants



Score higher on kindergarten assessments.



Score higher on reading assessments from kindergarten through third grade.



Have higher math and cognitive skills.

Role of Each Partnering Organization



Enrolls local children ages 0-5 years.
Raises funds to purchase and distribute books monthly to all local children enrolled.
Promotes the importance of home literacy practices.



Supports each Imagination Library in all 95 counties in TN by providing half the funds needed to sustain the program.



Selects the book titles.
Negotiates wholesale rates with publishers to keep costs low.
Coordinates monthly book orders and fulfillment.
Covers all overhead and administrative expenses of fulfillment center.