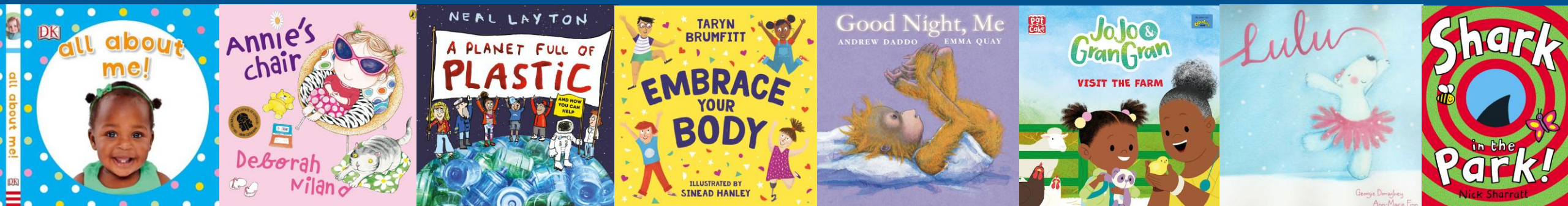


UNITED WAY AUSTRALIA

Imagination Library



Imagination Library

- Partnership between **United Way Australia** and **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** commenced in Australia in 2013
- >1.7 million books sent to children in Australia
- **60** staged books over **5 years**
- The Imagination Library encourages parents and carers to be their child's first teacher
- Around 1 in 5 Australian children start school 'developmentally vulnerable'
- Book selection committee – early years experts



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Imagination Library Research: Results

Sample Study: Tamworth

Overview

Longitudinal study birth to 3 years of 89 caregivers and their children. Research in partnership with Macquarie University

Results

- Children on 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.
- Participation in the program supported the caregiver's role as the child's first teacher by establishing early, regular reading routines.
- These routines were associated with improved emerging literacy skills in children by age three.



Sample Study: Worldwide

Overview

United Way Australia is globally recognised for its leadership in early literacy research and proudly hosts the world's largest dataset in shared book-reading.

Results

- Children who participated in the Imagination Library were more likely to be interested in books.
- Children were more likely to initiate shared book reading and demonstrate emerging literacy skills compared to children who did not receive books.
- These outcomes were consistent regardless of a child's postcode or the country they lived in.



Sample Study: Qualitative Findings



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

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

“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.”

“my kids couldn’t believe that kids of their colour could fly a plane, they really looked into it a lot deeper.”

“The Imagination Library is about strengthening our community and forging a generation of early childhood literacy at the forefront.”

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

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Thank You

For more information visit unitedway.com.au or email DPIL@unitedway.com.au