

ILKIS*: Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) Year 1

Background:

- 25-item Parent Survey:
 - Demographic items
 - DPIL-specific items:
 - Enrollment
 - Use of parent suggestions provided with books
 - Shared Book Reading (SBR) items:
 - SBR frequency (times in last week)
 - SBR practices (e.g., asking child to read along or rereading books)
 - Child's interest in reading (e.g., child asks to be read to or looks at books by self)

117 parent-child dyads:

- 64% female; 36% male children
- 84% African American; 6% White; 6% Hispanic; 4% Other
- All children attended NCPK
- 69% of children were enrolled in DPIL for at least part of year

31.6% parents reported reading to child every day

- 44.4% read to child 3 or more times a week
- 23.1% read to child 1 or 2 times a week
- 0.9% did not read to child

Key Findings:

DPIL enrollment of NCPK attendees outpaced enrollment in community at large.

When compared to baseline year, DPIL Year 1 parents reported:

Greater children's interest in being read to

Greater frequency of SBR

Greater engagement with children during SBR

Need for additional strategies to support full enrollment of NCPK students in DPIL and maximize effectiveness of SBR practices in all families.

Parents with 2 or 3 children receiving DPIL books reported **more frequent SBR** (46% read to child every day in past week), compared to households with one child or more than 3 children receiving DPIL books.

Implications and Next Steps:

Continued collaborations with NCPK, the United Way, and Pitt County Schools:

- Maximize DPIL enrollment, so that 100% of NCPK families have opportunity to enroll
- Design sustainable and scalable strategies to support shared book reading in families
 - Create a flyer about SBR to be distributed widely throughout the community, including PCS
 - Create a quarterly newsletter to be distributed digitally through UW to all families enrolled in DPIL
 - Include community calendars for free, literacy-focused events
 - Reflect the needs of the community and incorporate knowledge gained through parent surveys
- Explore possibilities for developing SBR-focused opportunities for NCPK parents, using the DPIL books to personalize the reading experience and connect to each family's worldview, values, and cultural practices.

*Learn more about Imagination Library Kindergarten Impact Study (ILKIS) at <http://blog.ecu.edu/sites/ilkis>