



December 2025

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We are grateful for your interest in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and for your commitment to early childhood literacy. Our goal has always been to ensure that every child in Cumberland County, ages 0–5, has access to this wonderful program and the joy of receiving a free book each month.

Because of our incredible growth, driven by new and enhanced community partnerships, we have experienced a surge of more than 300 new registrations each month. At the same time, we are navigating the recent cap on Smart Start funding from the state for Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, which directly supports the cost of delivering books to families. For every 300 new registrations, the annual shipping cost alone increases by approximately \$10,500, making it impossible to sustain unlimited enrollment under current funding levels.

As a result, we have exceeded our available resources and must implement a wait list for all new registrations at this time. We know this is disappointing news, and we want you to know this decision was made only after carefully evaluating every available option. Please know that children already registered for DPIL, either through United Way of the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, will continue to receive books.

Please rest assured that we are actively working to secure additional funding so that we can reopen the program to new registrations as soon as possible. Our commitment to the children and families of Cumberland County remains unwavering, and we will continue to pursue every opportunity to expand access.

Thank you for your understanding, patience, and continued support as we navigate this temporary challenge. We look forward to providing updates as soon as new resources become available.

With appreciation,
United Way of Cumberland County

