



At the Smart Start Network, we believe that early literacy is the key to a child's future success. Through our partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) and support from state funding, we have been able to provide children from birth to age five with a free, high-quality book every month for the past seven years. These age-appropriate books are delivered directly to children's homes, setting them on a path to a lifetime of learning.

The success of our state-funded DPIL program has led us to reach funding capacity. As a result, many communities across North Carolina will no longer be able to accept new enrollments starting February 1, 2025.

In Wake County, we regret to announce that new enrollments are closed as of 5pm on Friday, January 31st. This has been a difficult decision, and we understand the impact it has on families who are hoping to sign up. If your child is already enrolled or registered by 5pm on January 31st, they will receive their monthly book until they turn five.

The Smart Start Network is working hard to secure additional public and private funding to continue providing DPIL to children in every North Carolina community. We are hopeful that with increased support, we will be able to reopen registration for DPIL in Wake County to serve more children and families across the state.

We remain committed to ensuring all children in Wake County have access to the early literacy resources they deserve.

Here's how you can stay involved and help:

Continue reading with your young child. Did you know that reading aloud to your young child is one of the most important things you can do to prepare them for success in school? Reading aloud not only promotes early literacy and language development but also strengthens the parent-child bond.

Share Your DPIL Story. If your family has participated in DPIL, consider sharing your story with us! You can do so by sending an email to drossi@wakesmartstart.org

Follow Us for DPIL Updates. Stay connected with us on social media ([Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)) and through this page for updates on DPIL enrollment and other early literacy initiatives.

Write or email your local state representative. [LINK](#)

DPIL FAQ

My child is currently a DPIL recipient. Will they still receive books

Yes, all children already enrolled in the program and those registered by 5pm January 31st will continue to receive books until their 5th birthday.

Will the DPIL program return to Wake County?

The Smart Start Network is working to secure additional public and private funding to continue providing DPIL to children in every North Carolina community. We are hopeful that with increased support, we will be able to reopen registration for DPIL in Wake County to serve more children and families across the state.

We will post the latest status on state funding on our [webpage](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

Why did the funding end and how can I assist in petitioning for continued funding? Is that a NC state general assembly issue or funding from the Imagination Library?

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The best way to help is to contact your state legislators [LINK](#)

My oldest child is enrolled for the imagination library and has been since birth, but when I went to enroll my youngest, the website told me I couldn't enroll him because the program isn't available in my area? It doesn't make sense since we're still actively getting books for my older son! Could you help me with this?

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Is there a waitlist for children to obtain books "when" funding is available again?

No, Wake County's Imagination Library program does not have a waitlist. We will post the latest status on state funding on our [webpage](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

Please contact **Denise Rossi**, Program Specialist, Early Literacy at drossi@wakesmartstart.org for any other questions.