



Update on Arkansas Imagination Library to
Arkansas General Assembly
House and Senate Education Committees

Charlotte R. Green., Ed.D.
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Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

- **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL)** is the world's preeminent early childhood book-gifting program.
- DPIL mails free books to children from birth to age five in participating communities within the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and Republic of Ireland.
- DPIL delivers 1.4 million books each month to children participating in the program.

Arkansas Imagination Library (ARIL)

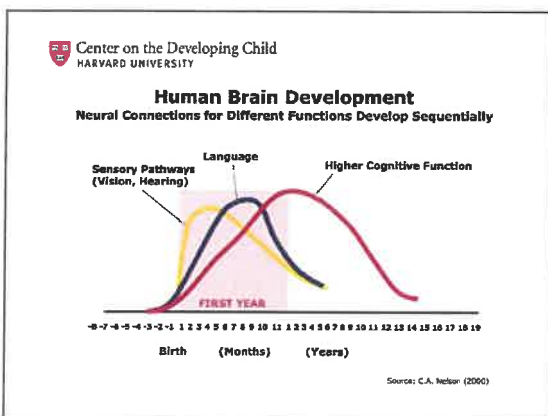
- A state 501(c)(3) partner to DPIL formed in July 2017 to support Arkansas children and provide resources to ARIL affiliates across Arkansas.
- Arkansas is one of four states with a state-wide organization.
 - Arkansas (Gov. Hutchinson provided initial funds to start program)
 - North Carolina (2017-2019 state budget - \$7 million)
 - Tennessee (Senate Bill 2275 of 2006 - Established Governor Books from Birth Fund)
 - Ohio (2019-2021 state budget- \$5 million)
- Approximately, 39,000 books are delivered each month to Arkansas children enrolled in the program, at no cost to families.

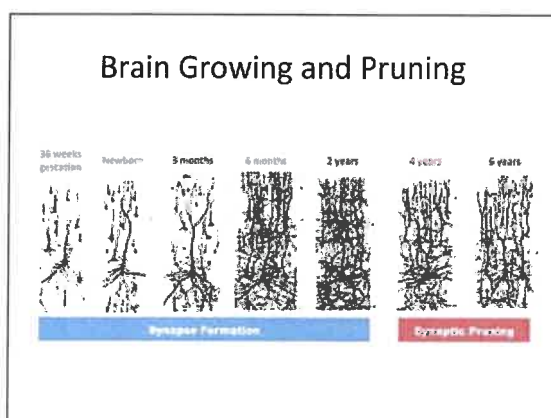


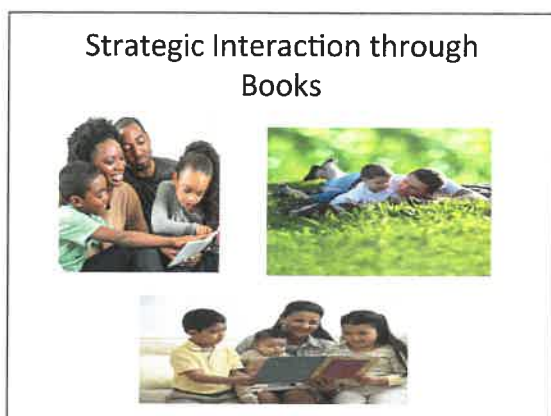
Two Reasons

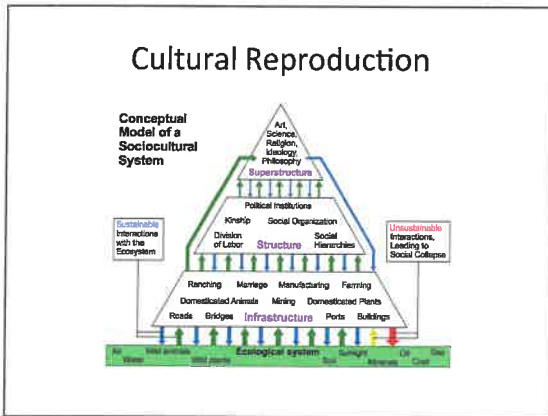
1. Brain Research
 - Brain Development - 85 percent of the brain is developed between the ages of 3-5.
 - Brain Pruning - We lose what we don't use.
2. Bourdieu's Cultural Reproduction Research
 - Understanding cultural capital and its influence on educational success.











Three Types of Cultural Capital

Cultural capital exists in three states:

1. Embodied (linguistic competence, mannerisms, and cultural knowledge)
2. Objectified (cultural goods, paintings, and **books**)
3. Institutionalized (educational credentials)

Books in the Home

- What does the research say about having books in the home?
 - Exposure to books provides significant academic advantages.
 - But the reasons for this are disputed.
- Elite closure theory posits that culture merely signals children's elite status to gatekeepers (schools) who then grant them unfair advantages.
- Scholarly culture theory believes that certain cultural practices provide cognitive skills that improve academic performance, which schools justly reward.

Research

- Evans, Kelley, & Sikora. (2014). Scholarly Culture and Academic Performance in 42 Nations.
- Analyzed both theories using data on academic performance from 42 national samples with 200,144 cases from OECD's PISA.
 - OECD- *Organization for Education and Co-operation Development*
 - *PISA-Program for International Student Assessment*
- Found that an essential component of scholarly culture is the number of books in the family home (regardless of the nation's ideology, political history, or country's level of development).

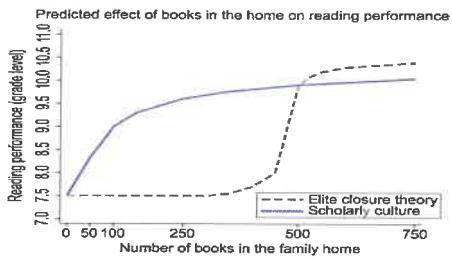
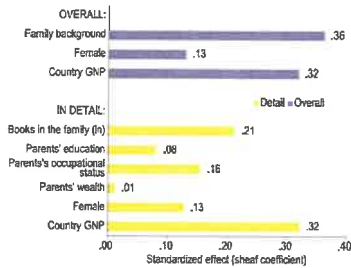
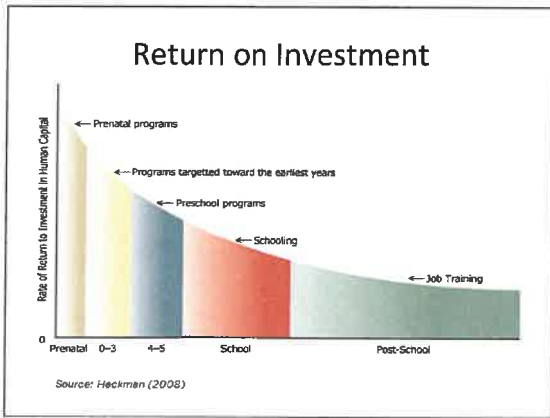
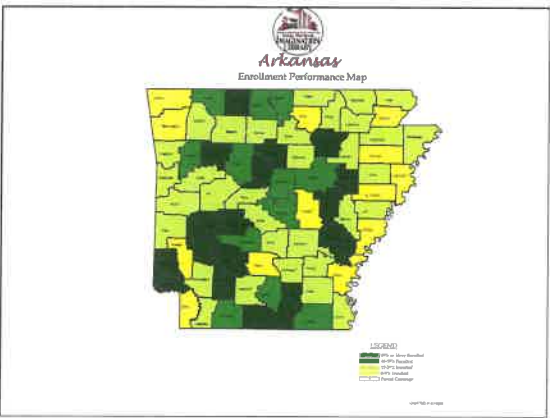


Figure 2. Relative importance of different influences on reading performance in 42 nations, year 2000. Multi-level analysis (from appendix table 1)







If we wish to close the gap between the rich and poor in this nation and we know where the gap grows and widens, then it is criminal to ignore it.

- Jim Trelease, 2007

Thank You!

Charlotte Green, Ed.D.
Assistant Professor, University of Central Arkansas
Executive Director, Arkansas Imagination Library
crgreen@uca.edu
crgreen@arimaginationlibrary.org
(501) 336-7537



Arkansas
