

**Imagination Library Program
Fall 2007 Survey of Kindergarten Teachers
Report of Findings**

**Tennessee Board of Regents
January 2008**

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Introduction

During November 2007, kindergarten teachers were asked to participate in an Internet web-based survey about students participating in the Imagination Library. The purpose of the survey was to gather teachers' professional judgments about the readiness and performance of students in their kindergarten classes who participated in the Imagination Library Program, also known as the Governor's Books from Birth Foundation Program. The survey was a revision of one administered as part of a field test during the previous spring.

The survey asked questions about kindergarten preparedness skills for two groups of students in a teacher's class: those who participated in the Imagination Library program and those who did not participate in this program. The survey instructions requested that teachers consider all students in each group as a whole rather than individually. Since teachers may not know which students in their classes participated in the Imagination Library Program, they were instructed to either identify participants through the school's database, if available, or through self-identification. If information from the database was unavailable, teachers were instructed to ask each child if he/she received the book The Little Engine that Could in the mail, and if he/she also received monthly books in the mail. Teachers were also provided a copy of the Imagination Library logo to show students. The teachers were instructed that if a child received these books by mail until age 5, then he/she participated in the program. For schools that did not have participant identifiers in place, this identification method was the best option available. A copy of the survey can be found in the appendix of this report.

Although the school and school system names were requested, respondents remained anonymous. Over 318 hundred kindergarten teachers responded to the survey with 1,990 program participants and over 2,600 non-participants identified. Teachers also identified 1,153 children who could not be determined whether they participated in the program. This group was not included in the survey questions. To minimize potential bias, only teachers who had at least five or more children in each of the participant and non-participant groups were considered in the survey question analysis. After adjustments, 153 teachers were included in the survey question analysis with 1,178 program participants and 1,454 non-participants. No adjustments could be made for a student's length of time in the program. All teachers were included when reviewing comments, procedures, and suggestions.

The survey was divided into six parts. The first part asked for the number in each group, the teacher's years of experience, the school, the school system, and the identification method used. The second part asked teachers to rate each group independently by various readiness skill and performance expectations. The third part asked for general demographics of the children (number who participated in early childhood programs such as head start, gender, etc.). The fourth part asked for a comparison of program participants to past pre-kindergarten classes in performance and skill levels. The fifth section asked for comments about the Imagination Library Program and comments for improving the survey. The last section contained an optional field test for determining the feasibility of having teachers respond to readiness questions by identifying the number of students for each scale category rather than considering responses as a single group of students. If feasible, counting responses by number of students falling under each scale item would provide more detailed information.

Independent Group Ratings of Expectations

For various readiness skill and performance statements, teachers were asked to rate Imagination Library participants and non-participants separately, on an average, as to expectations. The following scale was used with “1” being “much worse than expected” and “5” being “much better than expected”:

Much Worse than Expected 1	Worse than Expected 2	As Expected 3	Better than Expected 4	Much Better than Expected 5
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Table 1 shows the mean scores for the groupings made by the 153 teachers in the analysis. The questions address readiness skills and performance for children entering kindergarten. The table shows that as a group, teachers believed that children who participated in the Imagination Library Program were above what was expected of them in preparation for entering kindergarten or performing in kindergarten. For those not participating in the program, as a group they were slightly below expectations.

Table 1
Expectations of Kindergarten Students

<u>Question</u>	<u>Mean for Imagination Library Group</u>	<u>Mean for Non-Imagination Library Group</u>
1. Preparation when beginning kindergarten	3.43	2.82
2. Can stay on task	3.31	2.78
3. Can look at pictures and tell stories	3.61	2.86
4. Can enjoy stories, poems, and rhymes	3.76	3.07
5. Can answer questions about short stories	3.58	2.81
6. Can speak in complete sentences	3.56	2.96
7. Can understand that print carries a message	3.56	2.88
8. Can follow directions	3.30	2.74
9. Can make up pretend stories	3.45	2.78
10. Level of reading skills	3.46	2.74
11. Level of speaking skills	3.53	2.86
12. Level of thinking skills	3.41	2.83
13. Level of social skills	3.43	2.90
14. Level of overall performance	3.53	2.92

Tables 2 and 3 show the percent by expectation for each group of students.

Table 2
Percent of Group by Expectation: Imagination Library Participants

Question	Students Who were Imagination Library Participants				
	Much Worse than Expected	Worse than Expected	As Expected	Better than Expected	Much Better than Expected
1. Preparation when beginning kindergarten	0.0%	4.7%	52.7%	38.0%	4.7%
2. Can stay on task	0.0%	4.0%	65.1%	26.8%	4.0%
3. Can look at pictures and tell stories	0.0%	2.0%	44.6%	43.2%	10.1%
4. Can enjoy stories, poems, and rhymes	0.0%	0.7%	38.5%	44.6%	16.2%
5. Can answer questions about short stories	0.0%	1.3%	48.3%	41.6%	8.7%
6. Can speak in complete sentences	0.0%	1.3%	52.7%	34.7%	11.3%
7. Can understand that print carries a message	0.0%	3.3%	48.0%	38.0%	10.7%
8. Can follow directions	0.0%	5.3%	63.3%	27.3%	4.0%
9. Can make up pretend stories	0.0%	2.7%	57.0%	32.9%	7.4%
10. Level of reading skills	0.7%	3.4%	53.1%	34.7%	8.2%
11. Level of speaking skills	0.0%	1.4%	53.4%	35.8%	9.5%
12. Level of thinking skills	0.0%	3.4%	56.4%	36.2%	4.0%
13. Level of social skills	0.7%	2.1%	56.6%	34.5%	6.2%
14. Level of overall performance	0.0%	2.7%	48.3%	42.2%	6.8%

Table 3
Percent of Group by Expectation: Non-participants

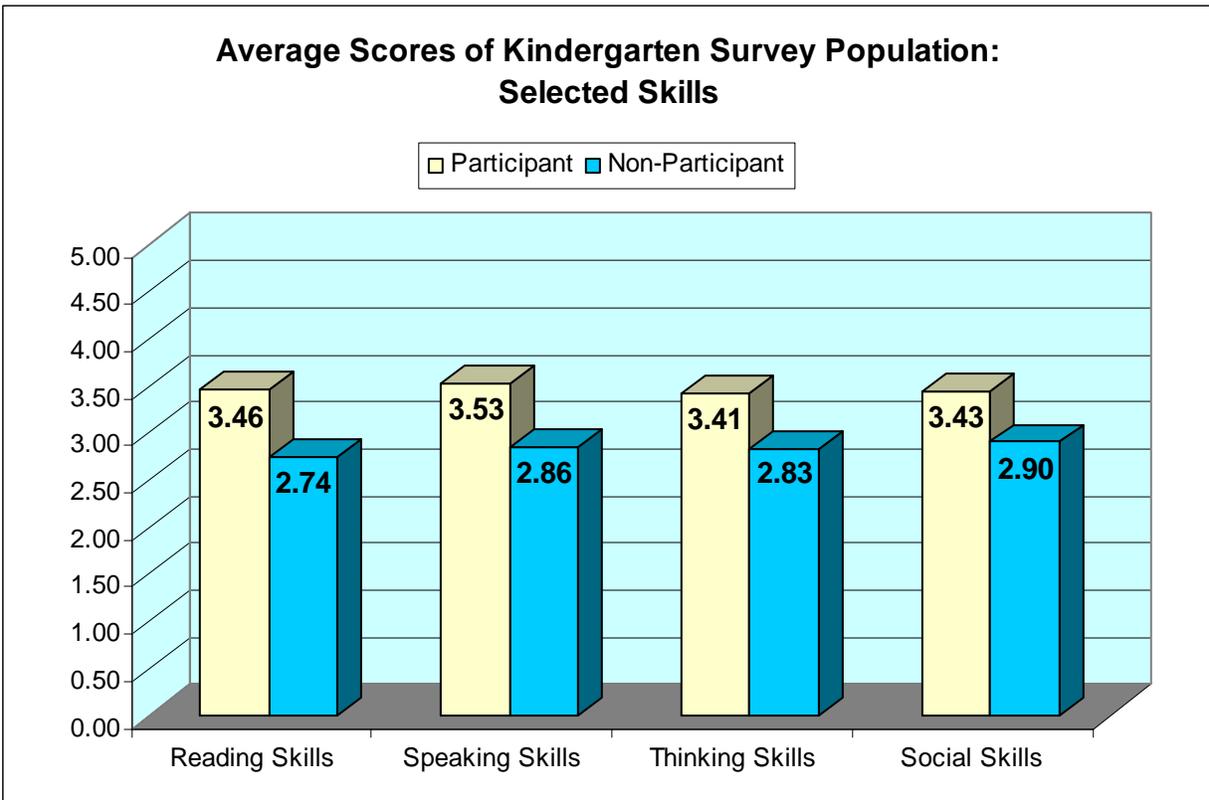
Question	Students Who were Not Imagination Library Program Participants				
	Much Worse than Expected	Worse than Expected	As Expected	Better than Expected	Much Better than Expected
1. Preparation when beginning kindergarten	1.4%	22.0%	70.2%	6.4%	0.0%
2. Can stay on task	0.0%	27.9%	66.4%	5.7%	0.0%
3. Can look at pictures and tell stories	1.4%	18.7%	71.9%	7.9%	0.0%
4. Can enjoy stories, poems, and rhymes	1.4%	9.2%	72.3%	14.9%	2.1%
5. Can answer questions about short stories	2.1%	21.3%	70.2%	6.4%	0.0%
6. Can speak in complete sentences	1.4%	12.1%	76.6%	9.2%	0.7%
7. Can understand that print carries a message	2.1%	17.7%	70.9%	8.5%	0.7%
8. Can follow directions	4.3%	22.0%	69.5%	4.3%	0.0%
9. Can make up pretend stories	2.1%	21.3%	73.0%	3.5%	0.0%

Table 3
Percent of Group by Expectation: Non-participants (cont)

Question	Students Who were				
	Much Worse than Expected	Worse than Expected	As Expected	Better than Expected	Much Better than Expected
10. Level of reading skills	2.8%	25.4%	66.9%	4.9%	0.0%
11. Level of speaking skills	2.1%	17.0%	73.8%	7.1%	0.0%
12. Level of thinking skills	1.4%	19.9%	73.0%	5.7%	0.0%
13. Level of social skills	1.4%	13.4%	78.9%	6.3%	0.0%
14. Level of overall performance	0.7%	16.2%	73.2%	9.9%	0.0%

Chart 1 provides graphically a view of selected skills important to kindergarten readiness. (Questions B10-B13)

Chart 1
Average Score for Selected Skills



Charts 2 and 3 graphically show the results of question B14.

Chart 2
Overall Kindergarten Performance of Imagination Library Participants

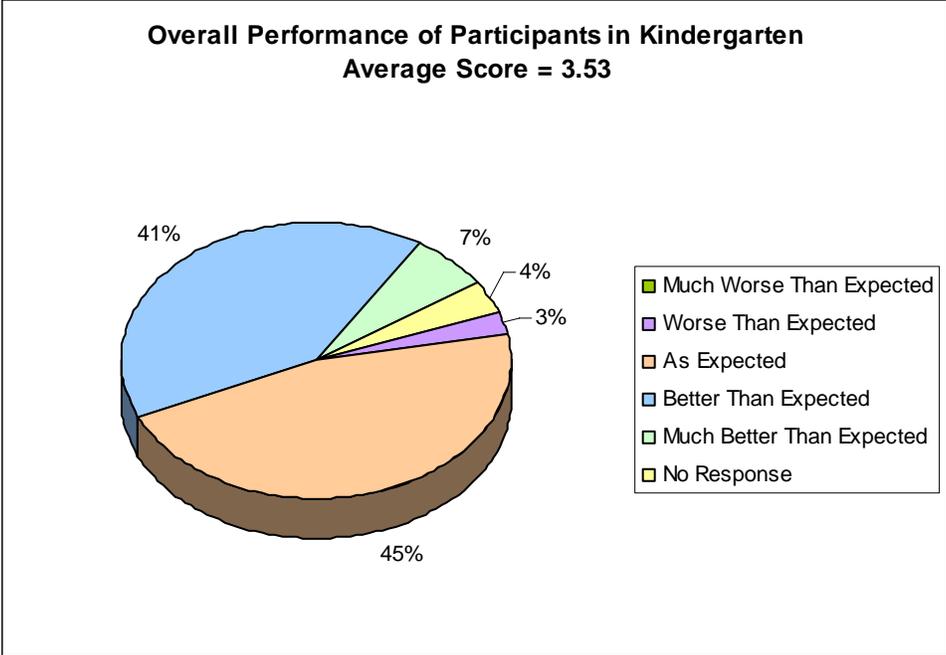
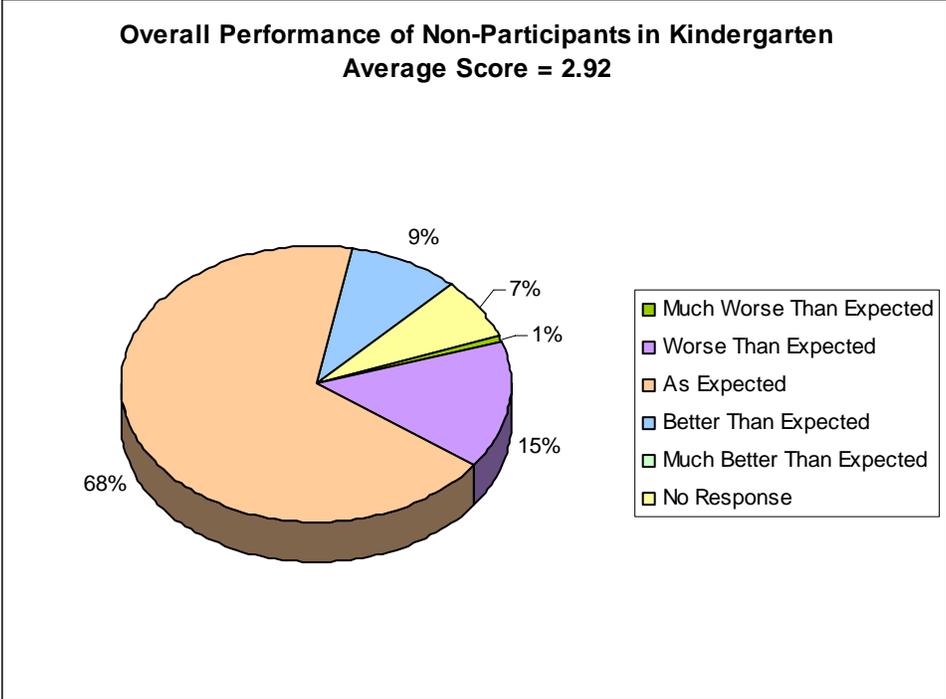


Chart 3
Overall Kindergarten Performance of Non-program Participants



Comparison of Imagination Library Participants with Past Kindergarten Classes

For various readiness skill and performance statements, experienced teachers were asked to rate Imagination Library participants compared to students in past kindergarten classes, on an average, as to expectations. The following scale was used with “1” being “much worse” than past classes and “5” being “much better” than past classes:

Much Worse 1	Worse 2	About the Same 3	Better 4	Much Better 5
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Table 4 shows the mean scores for Imagination Library Program participants from 141 experienced teachers in the analysis. The questions address skills and performance for children who participated in the program compared to children in past kindergarten classes. The table shows that as a group, teachers believed that children who participated in the Imagination Library Program excelled above past kindergarten classes in performance and skills.

Table 4
Comparison of Imagination Library Participants to Past Kindergarten Classes

<u>Question</u>	<u>Mean</u>
1. Compared to kindergarten classes in the past, how ready for kindergarten were the students who participated in the Imagination Library?	3.54
2. Compared to kindergarten classes in the past, how was the overall performance of students who participated in the Imagination Library?	3.57
3. Compared to kindergarten classes in the past, how were the reading skills of students who participated in the Imagination Library?	3.61
4. Compared to kindergarten classes in the past, how were the speaking skills of students who participated in the Imagination Library?	3.54
5. Compared to kindergarten classes in the past, how were the thinking skills of students who participated in the Imagination Library?	3.55
6. Compared to kindergarten classes in the past, how were the social skills of students who participated in the Imagination Library?	3.33
7. Compared to kindergarten classes in the past, how well did students who participated in the Imagination Library understand the spoken word?	3.60

Respondent Comments

The following pages provide a summary of representative comments and the appendix contains all comments made. In general, the respondents were very positive about the imagination library program.

Summary of Comments from Kindergarten Teachers

As a part of the fall 2007 Imagination Library survey, teachers were given the option to make observations about the program. Of the 318 kindergarten teachers responding to the survey, 118 made comments or recommendations in this optional section. In order to better understand teachers' perceptions of the program, responses were cataloged using the categories described in the table below.

<u>Comment Category</u>	<u>Description</u>
General Program Remarks	Comments based on teaching/general observations.
Personal Program Remarks	Comments based on observations as parent/family member.
Remarks on Logistics	Comments based on logistics and time-table for book distribution
Recommendation to Help Parents	Recommendation that parents need help understanding their role in reading.
Recommendation for Advertising	Recommendation that advertising increase in hospitals, libraries, etc.
Recommendation to Increase Age	Recommendation that eligibility be extended to older ages.
Recommendation for Spanish	Recommendation that program better involve Spanish speaking population.
Survey Comment	Comment about survey or process of identifying participants.
Other Recommendation/Comment	Comment or Recommendation that is not otherwise defined.

Results

<u>Comment Category</u>	<u>Responses</u>
General Program Remarks	54
Personal Program Remarks	12
Remarks on Logistics	1
Recommendation to Help Parents	12
Recommendation for Advertising	18
Recommendation to Increase Age	3
Recommendation for Spanish	1
Survey Comment	4
Other Recommendation/Comment	11

Examples

General Program Remarks

- Great program! Thank you! Students are proud of their books and bring them to school for me to read!
- I noticed, after getting the data together for this survey, that my smarter kids participated in the Imagination Library Program.
- I've seen greatly increased skills in concepts of print and prediction what will happen in a story. I think the program is wonderful.
- This is a wonderful program and I hope it will continue to be funded. There are very low income children in our school and some may not be able to buy books for their children.
- I think the program is awesome. The students are excited about the books and they are learning to take care of books they get.
- I think that once the imagination library students that are enrolled in the program from birth begin school, the results of this survey will have greater ranges than this one.

Personal Program Remarks

- I am so glad that we have this program in our state. I signed my daughter up as soon as she was born and I am delighted to see a new book come in the mail each month.

- I love the program. I have a four year old and a seven month old daughter. My four year old is so excited when she gets a book in the mail that she can hardly wait for us to read it. It has really enhanced her love of reading.
- The Imagination Library Program is great. My own 3 children have received great books and we have loved to read every one of them--many times over and over!!

Remarks on Logistics

- I think it takes too long a time for some children to get their books. My grandson filled out an application in May 2007. He has never received a book.

Recommendation to Help Parents

- Send suggestions to parents on how to use reading materials. Such as, kinds of questions they can ask their child about the story. Offer reading/learning skills that reading reinforces.
- The program is great and would work well if parents would take time to read to their children. Parents use work as an excuse for not reading to their children. They expect the teacher to do it all.
- It is a fantastic program. It all depends on the participation of the parents. If they read and discuss the books with their child or if they just let them play with it.
- I think the program is wonderful, however if parents do not read the books to the children, then the program may not be entirely effective.

Recommendation for Advertising

- I think it is great. Parents sometimes do not know about it until it is too late. There should be something given to them about how to sign up for this when the child is born.
- This is a great program for families, but can be difficult to start if parents don't have the opportunity to fill our surveys from their local library, doctor's office, etc. It could be beneficial to include the brochure in the New Parent packet they receive.
- It would be helpful to inform parent of this opportunity during pre-registration for Kindergarten- There are still so many parents who are unfamiliar with this program.

Recommendation to Increase Age

- Continue the program through age 6.
- I think that there would be great benefit to extending the program to include kindergarteners. Kindergarteners become so excited about reading once they realize that we are striving for that.

Recommendation for Spanish

- I have many Spanish speaking students. I would love to see the books available in Spanish and English. I have a now 3 year old son and a while back he received the book, Solo Tu, it was written in English and Spanish. I LOVED it because I can read it to him in both languages.

Survey Comment

- We have no way of knowing who participates in this program. The children really do not understand when I ask them if they are reading books they received from your program.

Other Recommendation/Comment

- I would like a list of the books that children are sent and at what age.

APPENDICES

1. Kindergarten Survey
2. Teacher Comments
3. Gender of Students

Imagination Library (Books from Birth) Program Survey of Kindergarten Teachers

A. Please complete the following information for your fall 2007 class:

1. Number of your kindergarten students who participated in Imagination Library Program: 0
2. Number of your kindergarten students who did not participate in Imagination Library Program: 0
3. Number of your kindergarten students who you cannot determine if they participated in the Imagination Library Program: 0
4. Number of years, including this year, you have taught kindergarten: ****Select****
5. School System: _____
6. School: _____
7. How did you identify which students participated in the Imagination Library Program?: (check all that apply)
 - Identified through school records
 - Student self-identification by my asking them
 - Other: _____
Please specify

B. For each statement below, please mark the circle under each group column that best describes whether that group, on an average, met what is expected of a kindergarten student. If you are not sure which group a child is in, please do not include that child in any grouping. If there are no children in a group, leave that grouping blank.

	Column 1 Students Who were Imagination Library Participants					Column 2 Students Who Did Not Participate in Imagination Library				
	Much Worse than Expected	Worse than Expected	As Expected	Better than Expected	Much Better than Expected	Much Worse than Expected	Worse than Expected	As Expected	Better than Expected	Much Better than Expected
1. Were prepared as pupils when beginning kindergarten	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
2. Can stay on task	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
3. Can look at pictures and tell stories	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
4. Can enjoy hearing stories, poems, and rhymes	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
5. Can answer questions about short stories	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
6. Can speak in complete sentences	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
7. Can understand that print carries a message	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
8. Can follow directions	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
9. Can make up pretend stories	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
10. PreReading skills of students	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
11. Speaking skills of students	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
12. Thinking skills of students	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
13. Social skills of students	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
14. Overall performance of students	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5

C. For each column grouping, complete the demographic categories below by indicating the number of your kindergarten children in that group. If you are not sure of exact numbers, please estimate if possible, otherwise select the "don't know" option. If you are not sure which group a child is in, please do not include that child in any grouping.

	Column 1 Students Who were Imagination Library Participants	Column 2 Students Who Did Not Participate in Imagination Library								
1. Number coming from early childhood program (e.g., pre-K, Head Start)	**Select** <input type="text"/>	**Select** <input type="text"/>								
2. Number who have pre-existing health or pre-identified learning problems	**Select** <input type="text"/>	**Select** <input type="text"/>								
3. Number who have limited-English speaking ability	**Select** <input type="text"/>	**Select** <input type="text"/>								
4. Number of minorities	**Select** <input type="text"/>	**Select** <input type="text"/>								
5. Gender	<table border="0" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Boys</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Girls</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">0 <input type="text"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">0 <input type="text"/></td> </tr> </table>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	0 <input type="text"/>	0 <input type="text"/>	<table border="0" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Boys</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Girls</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">0 <input type="text"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">0 <input type="text"/></td> </tr> </table>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	0 <input type="text"/>	0 <input type="text"/>
<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>									
0 <input type="text"/>	0 <input type="text"/>									
<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>									
0 <input type="text"/>	0 <input type="text"/>									

Please skip this next section and go to Section E if this is the first year you have taught kindergarten or if you do not have any kindergarten students who participated in the Imagination Library.

D. For each of the statements below, please mark the radio button before the number to the right that best describes your experience or judgment.

	Much Worse	Worse	About the Same	Better	Much Better
1. Compared to kindergarten classes in the past, how ready for kindergarten are the students who participated in the Imagination Library?	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
2. Compared to kindergarten classes in the past, how is the overall performance of students who participated in the Imagination Library ?	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
3. Compared to kindergarten classes in the past, how are the prereading skills of students who participated in the Imagination Library ?	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
4. Compared to kindergarten classes in the past, how are the speaking skills of students who participated in the Imagination Library ?	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
5. Compared to kindergarten classes in the past, how are the thinking skills of students who participated in the Imagination Library ?	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
6. Compared to kindergarten classes in the past, how are the social skills of students who participated in the Imagination Library ?	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
7. Compared to kindergarten classes in the past, how well do students who participated in the Imagination Library understand the spoken word ?	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5

E. Input and feedback (optional)

1. In the space below, please provide any suggestions, recommendations, or comments about the Imagination Library Program

2. In the space below, please provide any suggestions, recommendations, or comments about the survey.

Completing Section F below is optional. We are field testing this section, but also value your time. If you do have the opportunity to respond to items in this section, we would appreciate it. If not, please go to the end of the survey to click on the submit button.

F. For each statement below, please indicate the number of students under each group column that best describes whether those students met what is expected of a kindergarten student. The totals for each statement should match the numbers in Part A, Items 1 and 2 above.

	Column 1 Students Who were Imagination Library Participants					Column 2 Students Who Did Not Participate in Imagination Library				
	Much Worse than Expected	Worse than Expected	As Expected	Better than Expected	Much Better than Expected	Much Worse than Expected	Worse than Expected	As Expected	Better than Expected	Much Better than Expected
1. Were prepared as pupils when beginning kindergarten	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
2. PreReading skills of students	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
3. Speaking skills of students	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
4. Thinking skills of students	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
5. Social Skills of students	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
6. Overall performance of students	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
7. Please describe below any difficulty you had completing this Section, including the time it took.										

If you wish to save a copy of your responses, please print the survey using "file" and then "print" from the top menu before you click on the SUBMIT button below

Teacher Comments

This is an excellent program. I made sure that my daughter signed my new grandchild up for this program. We just need to get parents involved by letting them know that it is available.

I think the Imagination Library Program is wonderful! It is my hope that parents are reading the books to the child as well as engaging the child in conversation about the books.

Personally, I love the program. Getting books into the homes of young children opens the doors for reading to take place. As I looked at my class list, I was surprised by the number of students who do NOT participate in the program. I wonder if it is because they feel they do not need it, or if they do not know about it. Actually, many of my students who would most benefit from it were not participants. How can we get the word out even more?

This is a wonderful program and I hope it will continue to be funded. There are very low income children in our school and some may not be able to buy books for their children.

I think that all pre-school children need exposure to books. The more books they the better they will be prepared for school.

I think it is an excellent program!!!! So many of our students would never have a book in their home if it were not for this program.

I think the program is wonderful, however if parents do not read the books to the children, then the program may not be entirely effective.

I love the program! I think it is very beneficial. I wish it were marketed more. I think it is great, especially for the children who have limited access to books. My own child participates in the program.

Our school is in a middle to upper middle class community. Most of our parents value education and read to their child from a very early age - with or without the Imagination Library Program. I think it is a good program, but perhaps you should target low income families.

KEEP IT UP!!!!

It is a fantastic program. It all depends on the participation of the parents. If they read and discuss the books with their child or if they just let them play with it.

You can send as many books as you want to home, but parents have to read them to the child. Parents also have to care!

I would like a list of the books that children are sent and at what age. Who selected these books? Are the parent made aware of the importance of reading to the children everyday from birth.

The Imagination Library is wonderful! I wish there was a way to send books to all children in Tennessee.

Most of my students are not afforded the opportunity to own books. There are very few books in their homes. I was very surprised that most of my students were not part of this program. We try to send home book folders on each Friday so that reading opportunities are made available .

I think the program is awesome. The students are excited about the books and they are learning to take care of books they get. This is a really good way of getting books into the homes of students who would otherwise not purchase them.

This program is a wonderful gift to our children. However, the word is not out. To my knowledge, most of the children who are enrolled come from well educated families. The children in need are not being reached sufficiently. I believe that this program should be advertised on obstetrics floors of all TN hospitals. It would also be nice if a flyer were sent home with new parents. Lastly, 5-years-old seems early to stop such a wonderful program. This is the age that they learn to read. We need for them to have books at home at during school age years.

As I reported earlier, I wish there were more ways for young children to get the information about Imagination Station. If children do not regularly use the local public library, or are enrolled in our pre-K program here at school, I'm not sure how they are supposed to know about this excellent program.

I have many Spanish speaking students. I would love to see the books available in Spanish and English. I have a now 3 year old son and a while back he received the book, Solo Tu, it was written in English and Spanish. I LOVED it because I can read it to him in both languages. Having so many Spanish speaking students, I want them to have the opportunity to have the books as well. It is also great for the English speaking students to hear the Spanish language.

Hopefully within the next 3 years we will have more participants as children are now being signed up at birth. I love the program and have wanted a program like this in my area for a long time. We have to give these children that are unfortunate enough to have parents that do not work with them at home an advantage. The kindergarten curriculum is much advanced from what it was 3 years ago. Now if you don't come to kindergarten knowing your letters, you are behind. It is extremely difficult for the 5-7 students who have not had preschool and not been worked with to catch up. I love the book selections. Thank you for the program! It would be great if the kids who did not get to participate could get books in their home too once they are identified in kindergarten as missing out.

Try to get the word out to more parents through literature at pediatrician offices and hospitals after the birth.

I think that there would be great benefit to extending the program to include kindergarteners. Kindergarteners become so excited about reading once they realize that we are striving for that. I think that if the program were able to continue, this enthusiasm would last even longer in the child's education career.

I noticed, after getting the data together for this survey, that my smarter kids participated in the Imagination Library Program.

I recommend that you continue to provide the program to children in Tennessee. Whether it helps them prepare for kindergarten or not, it does encourage a love for reading and provides a resource for families to build upon. The responsibility still lies with the parents to prepare their children for school by teaching them some basic social skills, personal data, and general knowledge such as basic colors and shapes. Out of the 6 students that I had who received the books, two of those entered kindergarten ready for school and mature enough to focus on skills and tasks without constant assistance. The other four are behind developmentally for reasons not related to this program. Having access to books does not prepare children for school. Having a parent willing to take the time to read the books does.

I think this is an awesome program! It has helped many students have the chance to have books in their homes who otherwise would not have any. It is sad to see some of the children come who start off so behind because of the lack of previous learning experiences. Every home you put books in gives a child a reading experiences!!

I think the program is wonderful. I personally don't see why anyone would not participate. BUT, I sent an application home with each of my students this year. Almost all have younger siblings or relatives. I even offered to mail the forms in for them. I had one form turned in. Sad to say, so many families never read to their children and don't care about books at all.

It is difficult to complete the survey because my group is divided within the categories--about half of my students that received books may still have difficulties with readiness skills, ect. Keep the books coming!!

We have no way of knowing who participates in this program. The children really do not understand when I ask them if they are reading books they received from your program.

The program is great and would work well if parents would take time to read to their children. Parents use work as an excuse for not reading to their children. They expect the teacher to do it all.

I had a college professor that shared with us her sorrow over seeing 9th graders who could not even hold the book correctly (it was upside down). My joy with this program is that the children have a familiarity and love of books.....even if the program does not give them more readiness skills. Some parents do not think to ask their children about a story...but at least they will have been exposed to books (where some of them might not have had otherwise). The children in my group this year who participated in the Imagination Library are from affluent homes where the parents would have likely purchased or borrowed books anyway. My hope is to see more children from less advantaged homes also take advantage of the opportunity. It is a great program!!

I think it is great. Parents sometimes do not know about it until it is too late. There should be something given to them about how to sign up for this when the child is born.

Our children did not participate, so I have no comments.

I think in order to have more participation have the program available in the hospital for the parents to fill out there.

I think that the Imagination Library Program is great. It puts books into the homes of children who otherwise may not have that opportunity.

I feel it is a great program because my daughter is in it.

Some parents read the books to the children but do not realize they should talk with the children about what they have read. Suggestions for parents of things to do with the book would be very helpful.

My students who participated in the program are very young kindergarteners. I'm sure the program helped them, even though they are struggling.

I feel it is a wonderful program and I truly hope it continues and touches even more children's lives.

It is very beneficial to students, because some of these children may not get new books any other way.

I have several students that have brought the books to school for me to read. I am not for sure how many of my students get read to at home.

Try to get the word out to more lower income parents through hospitals at the child's delivery or at the pediatrician offices.

I think that this program is great. The parents had positive comments and hope to see this program continue.

The program is very important for all children. Making this readily available for every family is essential.

The Imagination Library Program is great. My own 3 children have received great books and we have loved to read everyone of them--many times over and over!! However, it's hard to know what other parents are doing once they receive these books at home. Too many children are coming to Kindergarten not ready on so many levels--the social, emotional, and academic. The books are great to introduce children to reading and about books, but if parents aren't taking the time to read and introduce other material to them, then what good is it doing in preparing them for Kindergarten.

The Imagination Library Program is an excellent program!! My students love to bring books that they have received when they were younger for me to read to the class. My child at home receives the book and they are wonderful!!

Send suggestions to parents on how to use reading materials. Such as, kinds of questions they can ask their child about the story. Offer reading/learning skills that reading reinforces.

I think this program is making a difference! Please keep it up!

Encourage more preschool parents to use the program, reminding them of no cost attached.

<p>The Imagination Library Program is a good program, and as more people become aware of it, the children will benefit. I didn't have that many students that participated and some of my higher level students did not participate. Of my students that did participate, a few of them are high level students.</p>
<p>Both of my children have participated in the program, and I think it is a WONDERFUL program! Although the answers given to questions here do not reflect a good representation of the program, I think there are still a lot of students (parents) who do not know about the program and could benefit from it with other children.</p>
<p>It's a wonderful program. None of my low-income families participated (or at least the child said they did not get books in the mail every month). I don't think it's really a well-known program to low-income families. Maybe having sign-up sheets and signs at health departments would help.</p>
<p>If this is a program from birth, then sign up for the program should be offered in every hospital, doctor's office, etc. that deals with children in that age group. My son did not get signed up until he was two because the office that handled the program wouldn't answer the phone or return messages.</p>
<p>I am so glad that we have this program in our state. I signed my daughter up as soon as she was born and I am delighted to see a new book come in the mail each month.</p>
<p>I think this has been a worthwhile program.</p>
<p>Giving books to children is a wonderful idea. Getting the parents to actually read the book to the child is completely another story. These books can give the children an advantage if they are used correctly.</p>
<p>Continuing the program to at least 2 times a year through grade school, at least Early childhood years 0-8.</p>
<p>Some of the parents said they had not heard of the program. I feel that I have not seen a drastic result because many of these students have not participated since birth. I think it is a wonderful program. We had bring your favorite book -to -school- day and two of my students brought their book they had received in the mail. (I recognized the logo).</p>
<p>I think it is a great program!</p>
<p>I do not know how parents find out about the program. But I wonder if when the books are sent to the homes... who reads the books to the children?I love books! I love to read to my students. But who reads to the children at home?I wish the books could be sent here to my classroom as a classroom set. I could read the book and then send the book home with each child. They could reread it to others in their home and feel successful! Thanks.</p>
<p>I think that this is a wonderful program.</p>
<p>This is a great program; however, it is obvious that the "target groups" who need it most are not receiving the program. Perhaps better advertisement...hospitals...daycares, preschools.... should help in making this program better known about.</p>
<p>This is a great program!</p>
<p>The students who participated had only been in the program for one year.</p>
<p>I've seen greatly increased skills in concepts of print and prediction what will happen in a story. I think the program is wonderful.</p>
<p>I think this program is a powerful program. I know the simple excitement it creates is worth the money. I have seen my students and my own child get truly ecstatic when receiving a new book in the mail. Students who are this excited become readers.</p>
<p>I think the program is great. Any way that kids can be exposed to reading is a plus.</p>
<p>It would be helpful to inform parent of this opportunity during pre-registration for Kindergarten- There are still so many parents who are unfamiliar with this program--</p>

I had a parent write that the book selection you provided was wonderful.
I am so glad we have this program I just wish everyone would take advantage of it. These books may be the only books in some homes.
Most of my students do not have books available in their homes. I was very surprised that most of my students had not been in this wonderful program.
It is such a great program! I always have a child who bring books to share with the class, but this year I had 6 children bring books to share. Five of them had books from the Imagination Library, and they knew the stories by heart. Almost all the other said "I have that too!" or "I love that book!". It was a great ice breaker for the first week of school, and gave all the children something in common to share.
I think the program is wonderful, and I hope it will be continued forever!
All but 2 parents surveyed that had received books, had only done so for a few months prior to 5th birthday. It would be great if parents could sign up before leaving the hospital at birth.
Good program that needs to be continued.
Maybe with some of the books read along CDs could be added for those students that do not get read to very much at home.
I feel that the Imagination Library Program is a wonderful program to offer children. As a parent of a 3 year old I think this is a wonderful gift to give to children, especially those who may not other wise have access to children's books in the home. My child loves the books and looks forward to having me read them over and over again.
One parent could not say enough about the program and how it helped her child love to read. I feel the information to get these books should be offer at kindergarten registration.
Very good program,this is something that the children enjoy by getting a book in the mail each month!
GREAT PROGRAM!!! THE KIDS REALLY ENJOY THIS!
I hope every child in my class has had a chance to participate in this program. I can think of at least three that do not have books in the home to read or be read to.
It's a great program! Provides books and reading experiences for students who might not otherwise have them.
In my particular case this year, the students who participated and did not were fairly even. Most all went to preschool. However, on the survey I sent out, parents who did participate indicated they felt the program was of benefit.
I think this is a wonderful program. I never really paid attention to the Imagination Library paper in the student records, but after completing this survey, realize how much it has helped the students. The students who participated are better students overall. Whether it has anything to do directly with the Imagination Library, or the fact that they have parents who actually read and speak to them, I do not know.
Our school did not have a list to tell who had actually taken part in the program. It might be more accurate to send a survey to the parents. I think that the program is a good idea. I hope that you will continue it.
After looking at the numbers from my records, I was surprised how many students didn't participate. We are in a rural area and for some reason the parents aren't informed or aren't participating. There needs to be some way to get parents to sign up for this. If the hospitals aren't handing out the information maybe this would be a good place to start and turn it in before you leave after giving birth.

<p>I think it is a wonderful program. My own child participates and looks forward to receiving her own books, even though we already have books in our home. I think children should be automatically placed on the list to receive books at birth, rather than the parents signing up for the program. I think the children who are participating are ones that will already have access to books in their home and it would be better for all children to be able to participate. This may already be implemented. I am not sure, because I took my child to the public library.</p>
<p>I feel as though this is an excellent program and one that should remain in place. I see a generation of students that love books and can't wait for circle time. During the month of October our class read nearly 1,000 books in our at home reading program. That means the world to me seeing that we are in a Title I school and live in a poor community. Keep the dream of reading alive for all children whose parents can't afford or choose not to purchase books for their children.</p>
<p>Thank you for a great program. Several of these would not have any literature in their homes if it was not provided through this program!!!</p>
<p>I think that the Imagination Library is a wonderful idea, and a great way for introducing books into the home (especially for those families that cannot afford to buy books for their children).</p>
<p>It has been my observation that the families that can afford books and whose children are considered average or above average are the ones who participate in the Imagination Library Program. They are not at grade level or above it simply because of Imagination Library but because their parents are willing and able to contribute towards their child's academic success. The ones that need books and have no access to them at home or to a library are not the ones that participate. In my opinion the same parents that do not participate in this great program are the ones whose children are behind when they come to Kindergarten (largely in part because they are not being worked with at home). The program is great, but we have to change these parents attitude before Imagination Library will successfully affect those who need it most.</p>
<p>I think this is a wonderful program!</p>
<p>I think the program is excellent. I think it takes too long a time for some children to get their books. My grandson filled out an application in May 2007. He has never received a book.</p>
<p>Could all the data you are requesting be put on one form so that we don't have to go through perm record to collect the data ? (part c questions)</p>
<p>It would be nice to receive sign up paper work when you have the baby at the hospital.</p>
<p>Have forms for registering children in the hospital packet for new moms.</p>
<p>This is a great program for families, but can be difficult to start if parents don't have the opportunity to fill our surveys from their local library, doctor's office, etc. It could be beneficial to include the brochure in the New Parent packet they receive from the hospitals.</p>
<p>The children in my classroom as well as my own child loved receiving the books in the mail. I often have students bring in their favorite books for me to read when they are Student of the Week. Many times the book that they bring in is a book they received thru the Imagination Library Program. I think the program is a very good thing. I hope it continues and I applaud everyone that is involved in it!</p>
<p>I think that some people truly were uninformed of this awesome program. Hopefully, it will become more known in the early childhood areas of the community.</p>
<p>This is a wonderful program. My daughter's were enrolled and enjoy reading and are good at it!</p>
<p>I think the Imagination Library is a great program. I use it for my own child and he has already developed a love for books and enjoys that reading time together.</p>
<p>I think the program is wonderful.</p>
<p>Great Program</p>

This is a wonderful program and I hope it continues!
Great program! Thank you! Students are proud of their books and bring them to school for me to read!
I feel it is a great program because a lot of kids would never have books of their own and would not be read without the program. Any education thing that is put in the home at an early age is better than nothing.
I love it! I'm very happy we have it for our children.
Get more people involved
The Imagination Library is a wonderful program for children and it does help students entering school.
I think that once the imagination library students that are enrolled in the program from birth begin school, the results of this survey will have greater ranges than this one. I think the program is awesome!!
Parents found out about the Imagination Library Program from a variety of sources: hospital, newspaper, school, daycare, babysitter, head start, doctor's office, and public library.
I think it is wonderful, and I am glad that it is publicized better now.
Wonderful Program!!!
I think this is a great program to begin to build phonemic awareness and a love for books.
Please continue.
This is a wonderful program. My daughters were enrolled and enjoy reading and are good at it!
I love the program. I have a four year old and a seven month old daughter. My four year old is so excited when she gets a book in the mail that she can hardly wait for us to read it. It has really enhanced her love of reading. My younger daughter loves all of the color and the pictures in the books she receives.
Continue the program through age 6.

Gender of Kindergarten Students

