



AN ERIE PLAYHOUSE & UNITED WAY PARTNERSHIP PRESENTS:

An exciting step forward in connecting

# **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**

to your community

**PLAYtime** USES THE ARTS AS A VEHICLE TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL CONNECTION WITH THE STORIES FROM

## **DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY**

WITH, IN, AND THROUGH THE USE OF SONG, DRAMA, MOVEMENT, AND VISUAL ARTS, STORIES COME ALIVE AND CREATE PURPOSEFUL SHARED READING EXPERIENCES.

Inspiration & Imagination are the recurring themes throughout the 3 year cycle of **PLAYtime** and include:

- love of reading and learning
- regard for diversity of people, their roles, culture, and environment
- promotion of self-esteem and confidence
- appreciation of art and aesthetics as outlined by...

## **IMAGINATION LIBRARY**

Stories with...

- Rhyme and rhythm
- Repetition and predictability
- Playful sound
- "Self-help" activities
- Use of real photo illustration
- Nursery rhymes
- Colors, letters, numbers
- Values and character
- Issues—fear, conflict, love, safety
- Hero, complication, resolution
- Diversity of others—faces, environment
- Play, humor, fun
- Poetry
- School preparation and readiness
- Science—non-fiction
- Folk tales
- Thank you, appreciation
- ...are the perfect settings and situations for this program!

# The PLAYtime Journey

For 4 years, The Erie Playhouse, with the support of the United Way, has grown this literacy program and is now present in 20 children centers and school classrooms supporting literacy through PLAYtime in our hometown. Over the course of 3 years, the same child will have spent 144 shared reading experiences with the Imagination Library stories using PLAYtime curriculum lessons. In the past 4 years over 2,000 children in at-risk settings will have been nurtured by PLAYtime, listening, attending, questioning, and retelling these tales at an increase success rate of 95%. Teachers and facilitators have grown in their storytelling connections by participating in PLAYtime as well.

Workshops for parents and children of the program increase reading at home. And on stage, The Erie Playhouse welcomes PLAYtime as they present shows based on the Imagination Library completely free to the community followed by fun activities to engage the whole family!

In addition, facilitators of PLAYtime immerse themselves as partners in the schools and children centers they are connected to, guest appearing at their family game nights, carnivals, red carpet events, and even facilitating at graduations!

PLAYtime is committed to the community creating a truly meaningful relationship with its families.

Can you imagine PLAYtime in your community as well?

# What does a PLAYtime Classroom experience look like?

Each PLAYtime facilitator is an educator and arts specialist. They use the arts as a tool to create a reading experience that seamlessly moves from song to drama to



shared reading to movement and back again. Students are immersed in language while creatively expressing themselves through the arts

## The 25-minute immersion

### **2 MINUTE SLIDE WHISTLE WARM-UP.**

- Readies our minds and bodies for storytelling.
- Students gather in a familiar “read-aloud” community area.
- The PLAYtime facilitator uses the slide whistle up and down in a variety of ways to help children transition into a more focused setting while enjoying a few last minute wiggles!

### **1 MINUTE SONG**

- The group sings “PLAYtime Theme Song.”
- The song uses a routine-like repetitive verse to prepare for the purpose of time together.
- A bridge section in the song allows for some creative movement that may each week give clues to the upcoming story... for

example when warming up for the story entitled, “I Am a Rainbow”, students may arch their arms over their bodies like they are the rainbow... the facilitator may call out, “Now let’s be a rainbow and show our beautiful colors.”

### **3 MINUTE PRE-STORY READING ACTIVITY**

- Each session will vary depending on the story.
- Reading with a purpose or intent is key in the engaging process
- Introduction of a character, something to look for, a connection to an experience, a small dramatic play, a puppet, all of these techniques may be used to prepare the group for the read-aloud.

### **12–15 MINUTE READ-ALOUD**

- Each week a story from **Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library** will be used.
- The **PLAYtime** facilitator will present the story twice in a week.
- Each time goals and focus will change.
- Students may be asked to predict, retell, and participate in a variety of ways.
- At times, a song, chant, or activity may be part of the read-aloud experience giving many opportunities to participate and use language.

### **3–5 MINUTE POST-STORY ACTIVITY**

- At the completion of the read-aloud portion, there could be a quick follow-up debrief to focus on the theme/topic/goal of the story.
- Sometimes it is a set-up for what will happen with the story when we meet again, as is true with the first experience of the book for the week.
- Sometimes, this activity rides on the coattails of the read-aloud itself becoming part of the re-tell experience. This is especially true of the second weekly lesson.
- It includes the arts to make that “artsmart” connection.

### **1 MINUTE CLOSURE SONG**

- As a means of helping the students and **PLAYtime** facilitator make a smooth exit...there is a closing song, “Goodbye Friends.”
- It helps seamlessly bring the lesson to a close.
- While the facilitator is packing up their things and moving around acknowledging the time they have had together, everyone sings together...Goodbye Friends, Goodbye Friends, Goodbye Friends, we’ll see you ...i.e. “in two days!”