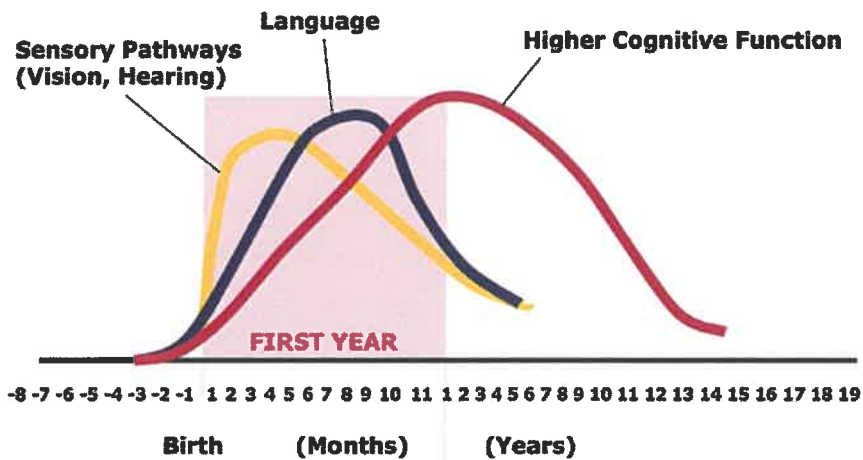


# 2019 PROGRESS REPORT



Arkansas

## WHY EARLY LITERACY MATTERS:



Cognitive processes develop rapidly in the first few years of life. At birth a baby's brain is only 25% of its adult size. In the first few years of life, a child's brain builds **1 Million** connections per second! By age three a child's brain will be 85% of its adult size. By the time a child enters kindergarten, their brain is nearly fully formed.



**85%** of a person's intellect, personality, and social skills are developed by age 5.

**95%** of public investment in education occurs after age 5, when the most critical learning years have passed.



Children in middle- and high-income homes have an average of **13 books** per child.

Children living in poverty have an average of **1 book per 300 children**.



Because of this, preschoolers from low-income families have fewer language and literacy opportunities than children from economically advantaged backgrounds - **a major reason why they lag behind** in reading achievement throughout the school years.

Children growing up in homes with

as few as **20** books get

**THREE YEARS MORE SCHOOLING**

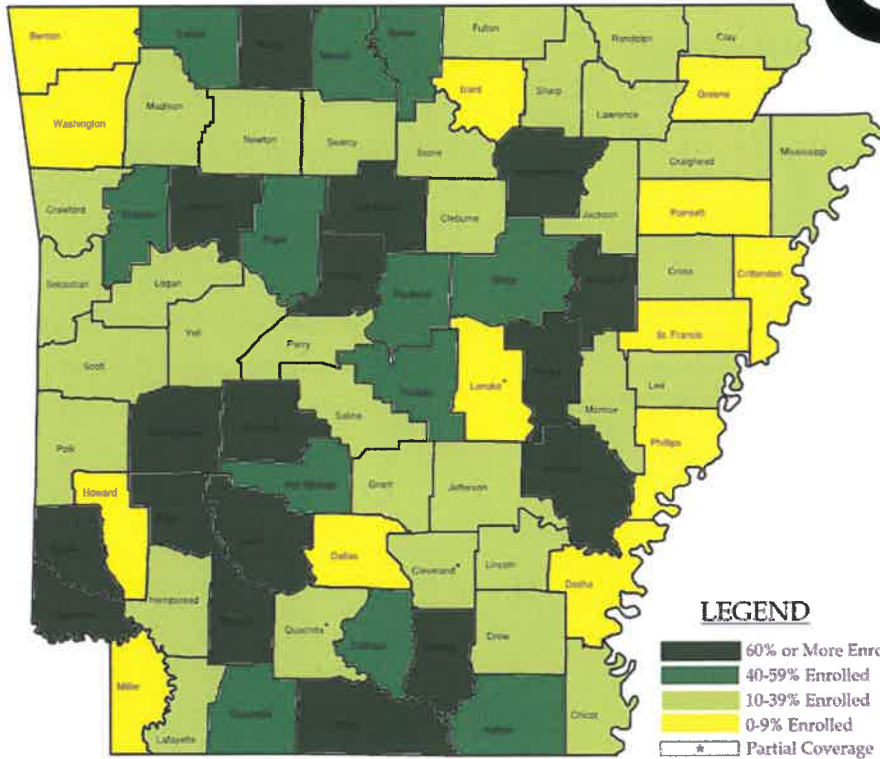
than children from bookless homes, independent of their parents' education, occupation, and class.

In 2019, **38%** of Arkansas third graders read proficiently.

# 2019 PROGRESS REPORT

## HOW ARIL IS HELPING:

**427,327 Books** were mailed to Arkansas children in the last 12 months.



**1.6 Million**

books and counting have been delivered since 2005.

More than **34,500**

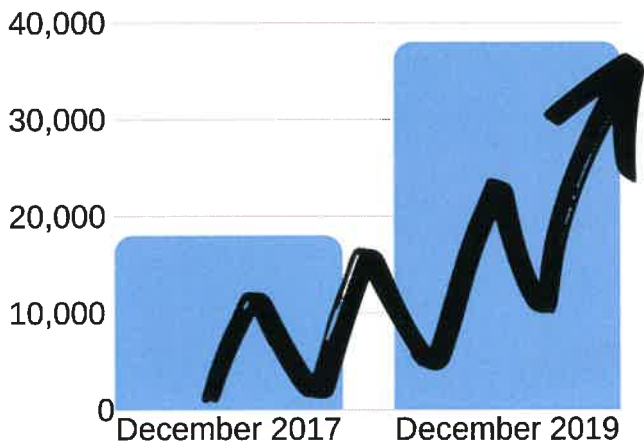
five-year-olds have graduated from the Imagination Library.

More than **38,000**

Arkansas children age 0 to 5 are currently receiving books.

**18.7%**

of Arkansas' 190,343 preschoolers are enrolled in the Imagination Library.



**87%**

The number of books mailed monthly grew 87.3% in just two years, since ARIL began operations.