Big Dreamers

UK Statistics

- **Almost 60% of children from low-income families** are delayed in language by the time they start school (Locke, Ginsborg & Peers, 2002)

- **Low-income children are on average 16 months behind** their high-income counterparts in vocabulary development at age 5 (Waldfogel & Washbrook, 2010)

- **Vocabulary at age 5** is the best predictor of whether disadvantaged children are able to **'buck the trend'** and escape poverty in later adult life (Blanden, 2006).

Our idea
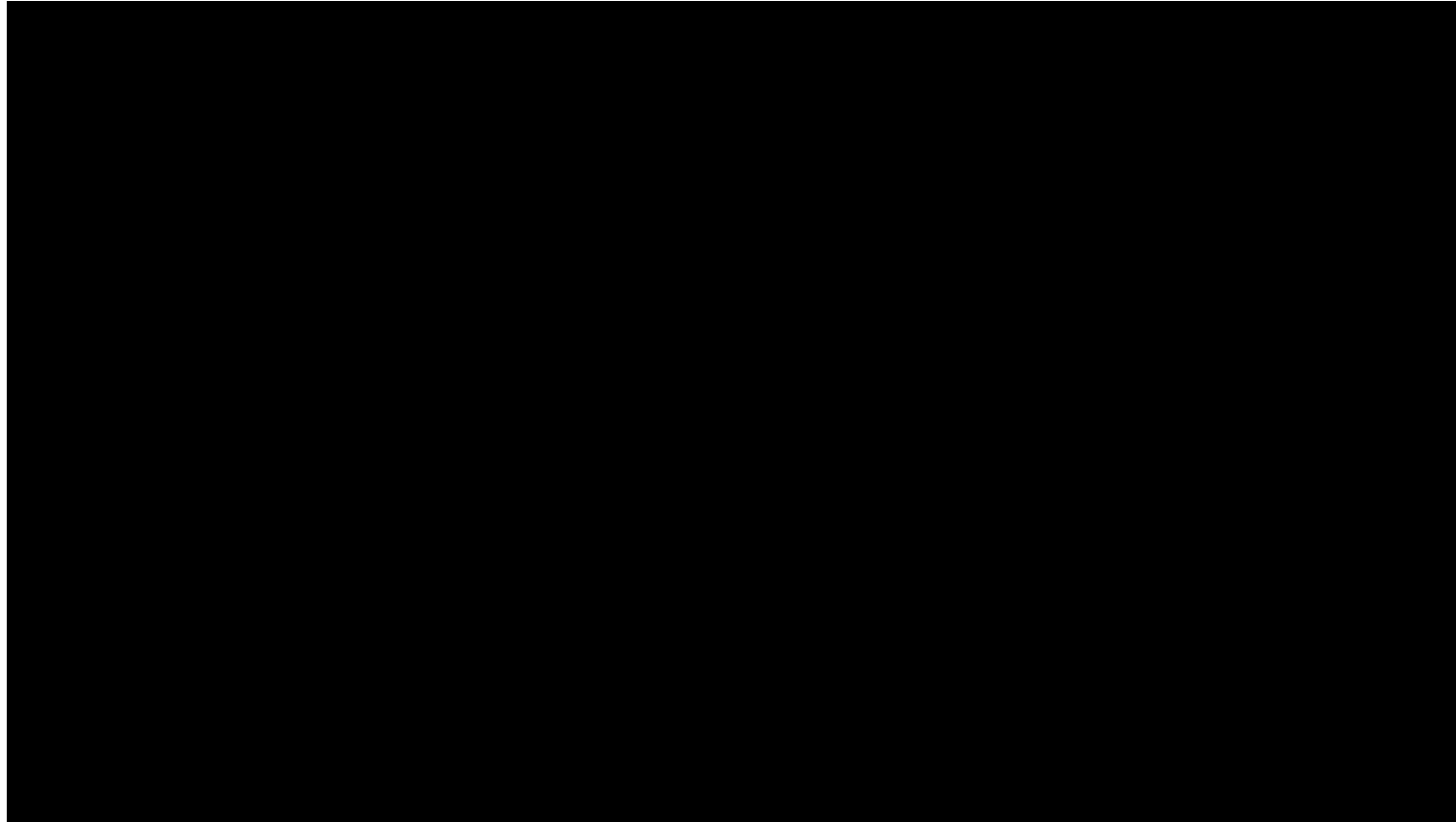
Winning

Story Starters: A Partnership between Beanstalk, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and LuCiD at Liverpool

Our Dream Programme

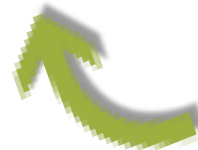Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
UK Book Selection Committee

Beanstalk One-To-One Reading Support

University of Liverpool Testing and Evaluation

Funding provided by the players of the People's Postcode Lottery

Joint Book Reading: 'Rocket Fuel' for Language Development

- Encourages joint attention and contingent talk

- Increases lexical and syntactic diversity of adult speech

- Promotes dialogic interaction

- Supports vocabulary and narrative development

What does a Story Starter learn?

How to:
- Develop all 6 emergent literacy skills
- Engage pre-school children in tasks
- Read aloud effectively
- Achieve joint attention
- Use picture books to boost oral language
- Use the dialogic reading approach
- Have productive fun around books
- Promote and protect children's welfare

Launching

Progress to Date

- Merseyside volunteers recruited and trained and for some children intervention has already begun

- Intervention books selected and beginning to drop through letterboxes

- Pre-testing of RCT children on BPVS, CELF-Preschool and PIPA almost complete

The learning

What now?

Questions