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### Celebrate Summer with Imagination Library RVA!

July 2024

Welcome to Imagination Library RVA's monthly e-newsletter. Below, you will find helpful information designed to keep you informed and connected to our community's ongoing work to promote literacy.

We are thrilled to have you as part of our growing family of readers!

You can also visit us at [www.imaginationlibraryrva.org](http://www.imaginationlibraryrva.org)



### Imagination Library RVA News



Photo by Gloria Keating

#### ILRVA Hosts "Richmond's Romp & Read Fair"

Earlier this month, Imagination Library RVA joined forces with over 30 community partners to host the first ever Richmond's Romp and Read Fair! The event was held across Bellemede Park, where different vendors presented interactive opportunities for over 300 children and their families. From story times, nature painting, sidewalk chalk, and even soccer games with the Richmond Kickers, there was no shortage of fun to be had.

We cannot thank our community partners enough for spending the day with us — or for our ILRVA Project Manager, Kimberly Fehrs, for organizing this event. We are so looking forward to the next time we can come together as a community to spread the joy of reading and literacy with you!



### Mirror the character's emotions - even if it's a crying pig!

Your July 2024 reading tip



When you're reading aloud, try to mirror the emotions felt by the characters. This will make the story feel more meaningful to your listener.

Books are vital places for young scholars to engage with a wide range of emotions. Anger. Sadness. Joy. Frustration. For instance, a lot of young readers have their first brush with grief when Charlotte passes away and Wilbur reels in the wake of her absence in E. B. White's *Charlotte's Web*. You don't want to miss these opportunities, so understanding a scene and letting your voice reflect the emotion of the scene will help create a deeper, more memorable reading experience.

### Upcoming Community Partner Events

**July 2**

- Tutus & Ties on Tuesdays, Children's Museum of Richmond Downtown, 2:00 - 2:30pm, \$

**July 14**

- Richmond Flying Squirrels - Fairytale Funville & Youth Royal Cape Giveaway, The Diamond, 12:30 - 5:00pm, kids under 14 get in free

**July 23 - July 28th**

- Richmond Flying Squirrels vs. Binghamton Rumble Ponies, The Diamond, 12:30 - 5:00pm, \$

**July 25**

- Christmas in July, Children's Museum of Richmond Downtown, 9:30am - 5:00pm, \$

**July 28**

- Richmond Flying Squirrels - Youth Nutzy Ear Cap Giveaway, The Diamond, 12:00 - 5:00pm, kids under 14 get in free

Have a community event you would like us to include? [Email us!](mailto:us!)

For even more community events for the whole family, be sure to pick up a free copy of [Richmond Family Magazine](#), available at over 850 spots all over RVA, including [these locations](#).

### Three Ways to Pre-K

Richmond Public Schools are thrilled to offer preschool for eligible 3 and 4-year olds living in Richmond, along with three convenient ways to apply. Don't delay - spaces fill up quickly, and we don't want your child to miss out on this valuable opportunity!

To begin your child's preschool registration, just visit their [website](#).

**3 Ways to Pre-K**

Select from the options below to complete your child's preschool application, today!

- 1 Complete the online preschool application form at [www.rpsva.net/prek](https://www.rpsva.net/prek)
- 2 Request a phone call for assistance with completing the application over the phone.
- 3 Schedule an appointment for in-person support with the application.

To submit your choice:

[Submit online](#) | [Call us](#) | [Request an appointment](#)

**3 Opciones para Pre-K**

Selecciona una de las opciones a continuación para completar la solicitud preescolar de tu hijo/a hoy mismo!

- 1 Completa la solicitud en línea para el preescolar en [www.rpsva.net/prek](https://www.rpsva.net/prek)
- 2 Solicita una llamada telefónica para recibir asistencia con respecto a la solicitud por teléfono.
- 3 Programa una cita para recibir apoyo en persona con la solicitud.

Para enviar tu elección:

[Envía online](#) | [Llámanos](#) | [Solicita una cita](#)

Click the flyer to enlarge.

### Partner Spotlight



The Children's Museum of Richmond transcends the traditional notion of a play space; it stands as a vibrant community hub, offering a rich tapestry of programs and activities designed around the ethos of learning through play.

With an unwavering commitment to inclusivity, we extend access to all children and their caregivers, ensuring that the joy of discovery knows no bounds.

Research underscores the profound impact of play on a child's academic journey, from mastering fundamental concepts to honing crucial socialization skills. Within the immersive environment of our museum, where each corner beckons exploration, children are not merely playing; they are laying the foundation for academic success.

While your children revel in the excitement of our ever-evolving exhibits, they're seamlessly absorbing knowledge and skills that will serve them well beyond the museum walls. Step into any of our locations today and witness firsthand the magic of learning through play—a journey where curiosity is nurtured, and every moment holds the promise of something extraordinary.

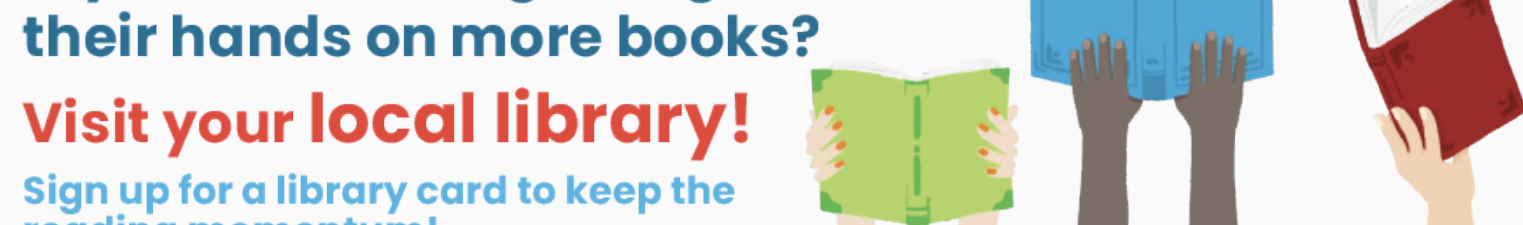
Another invaluable resource we offer is the Book Bank, an initiative born from our steadfast belief in the transformative power of literacy. The Children's Book Bank ensures every child has access to high-quality books, fostering a sense of pride in ownership and opening doors to endless adventures within the pages.

By supporting school readiness and literacy development, the Book Bank empowers children to embrace the wonders of reading and place the groundwork for a lifetime love of learning.

Together, let's write stories of hope and empowerment, one book at a time.

### We Love Our Local Libraries!

Is your reader eager to get their hands on more books? Visit your local library! Sign up for a library card to keep the reading momentum!

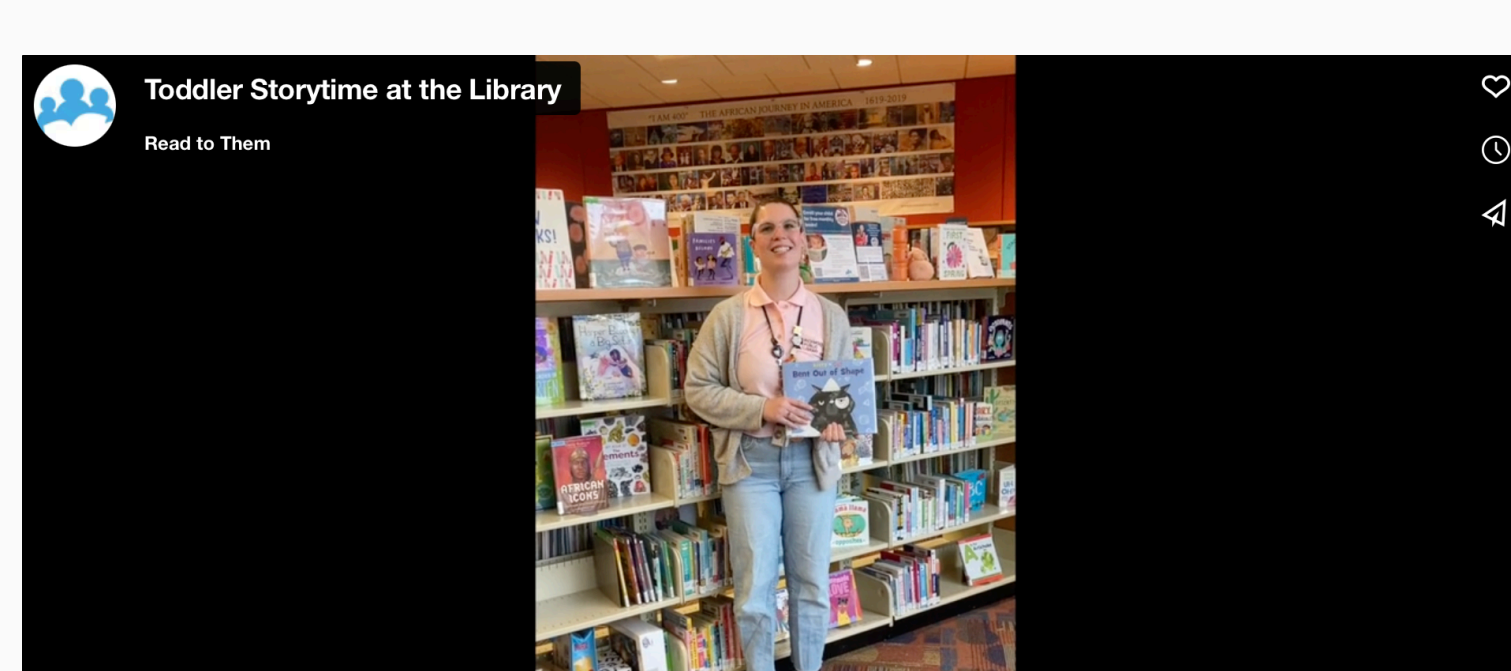


#### Toddler Fun at the Library

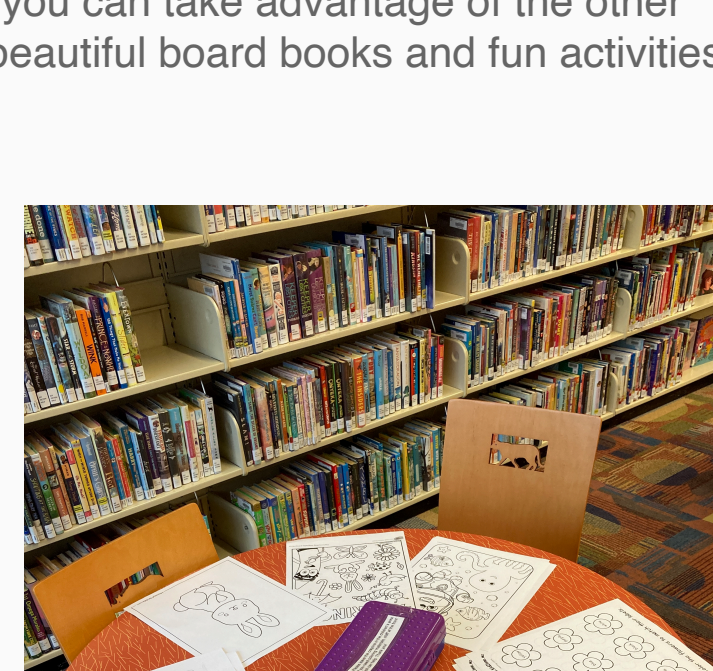
Toddlerhood is an exciting time in a child's development, filled with exploring and learning. It can also be exhausting for parents and caregivers — those little ones are so busy. Your local branch of the Richmond Public Library has just the ticket for active toddlers and the adults who love them — Toddler Storytime.

Each branch has special storytimes designed specifically for little ones who are on the move. They are fun and interactive, with stories and songs to keep children engaged. So, head to [Kids page](#) on the Richmond Public Library website to find a storytime near you.

Here is Madison from the East End Branch to tell you more:



While you are at the library for storytime, you can take advantage of the other resources for your little one. Look at the beautiful board books and fun activities at the East End Branch.



Here are some toddler book recommendations from Madison:

- Kitty and Cat Bent Out of Shape* by Mirka Hokkanen
- Learning with Liama Liama – Shapes* by Anna Dewdney
- Goodnight, Veggie* by Dianna Murray and Zechannah O'Hara
- Lois Plants a Garden* by Anna McQuinn and Rosalind Beardshaw
- Growing Vegetable Soup* by Lois Ehlert

### Don't Forget to Lend Your Child a Helping Hand!

Your July 2024 "Focus on the Basics" Tip



#### Helping Hand

When you're reading to your child, ask them to identify different numbers or groups of objects. For instance, if there is an illustration with many colors, ask, "How many colors can you see?" Or, if there is more than one character on the page, ask your child to identify all the characters. You can even ask your child to bring you a specific number of items, such as, "Can you bring two books to read?" You'll want to increase the number as your child continues to learn and grow.

Visit this principle from the Basics [here](#).

To learn more about how you can Count, Group, and Compare, click [here](#).

Early childhood organizations all around the City of Richmond have joined The Basics movement, a strategy for whole communities to support vibrant learning and brain development among infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Fun, simple, and powerful, starting at birth, The Basics are five science-based parenting and caregiving principles that support social, emotional, and cognitive development.

Each month's Read to Them will highlight tips and strategies that will assist you in creating a sturdy foundation for school readiness for our youngest citizens.

Visit [theBasicsVirginia.org](http://theBasicsVirginia.org) for more information.

### Current Number of RVA Readers...

**Celebrating 3,213 Sign-ups!**

Sign up your child ages 0-5 living in the City of Richmond for FREE BOOKS through the mail today!



As Dolly says, "You can never get enough books into the hands of enough children!"

Brought to you by Read to Them



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