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Summer Sun and Reading Fun!

August 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

Imagination Library RVA News



ILRVA Joins Partners in Parenting to Give Away Books!

We are so proud to share that, at the end of July, ILRVA joined forces with **Partners in Parenting**. This family-focused mental health practice provides evaluations, interventions, outpatient therapy, and parent consultation in and around Richmond. As part of their Roadmap Series, Kimberly Fehrs and Sara Hudson presented a talk to families and professionals titled *Reading with Children: Building Literacy, Healthy Emotions and Relationships*, addressing both the "why" and "how" of reading aloud. ILRVA provided a copy of *The Family Book* by Todd Parr for all the participants.

We hope everyone left the session empowered to read aloud more and to be ambassadors for reading aloud in their communities. We look forward to working with Partners in Parenting again!

Keep Your Listener's Attention by Varying... the... Rhythm!

Your August 2024 reading tip



When reading aloud, have fun with the language in your book.

During suspenseful sections sloooowooooooow down. Let the suspense... build. When there is a meaningful moment, try pausing to let the scene's impact truly settle between you and your listener.

However, you don't want to meander during a scene that's bubbling with joy and laughter, either. Think of reading aloud as a performance – and let the show begin!

Upcoming Community Partner Events

- August 6**
 - Tutus & Ties on Tuesdays, Children's Museum of Richmond Downtown, 2:00 - 2:30pm, \$
- August 10**
 - Back to School at Stony Point Fashion Park, Stony Point Fashion Park, 11:00am - 1:00pm, free
- August 25**
 - Richmond Flying Squirrels - Shell & Tell Day, The Diamond, 12:30 - 5:00pm, free

Have a community event you would like us to include? [Email 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](#).

Click the flyer to enlarge.

Partner Spotlight



Little Hands VA is a local non-profit providing the essentials (and a little extra love!) to children in need, ages 0-3 years old, in Central Virginia. Little Hands focuses on the early years of a child's life, helping to ensure that children in the greater Richmond region are clean, healthy and cared for from day one. With over 60 partners and 200+ volunteers, Little Hands is able to support hundreds of local children and families each month; in July alone, Little Hands sent out a record number of over 69,000 diapers into the community!

At Little Hands VA, we know that access to diapers can prevent health issues and abuse for babies and little ones, while reducing stress for parents. And with 1 in 2 families in our community experiencing diaper need, Little Hands is playing a major role. To help us in our mission, we encourage you to participate in our Big Diaper Drive, kicking off September 23rd! In an effort to help wipe out diaper need, we are aiming to collect over 200,000 diapers for families in Central Virginia. Please visit [LHVA Big Diaper Drive](#) to learn more about how to get involved and help Virginia's babies thrive from day one!



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!

Getting Ready for Back to School!

Where has the summer gone? Before you know it, the big yellow school buses will be rolling through the neighborhood. You might have a little one heading off to pre-K or older ones who are school pros by now. Good news – Richmond Public Library can help everyone get ready for learning. They have special reading lists that cover lots of topics like [Alphabet Books](#), [Going to Kindergarten](#), [First Day of School](#), and even [Going to Bed](#). Jot down some titles and then head to your branch to check out a stack.

Here is Mirissa from the Belmont Branch to tell you more:



The Belmont Branch has a delightful children's area – take a look!



Lots of brand new titles...



...and so many early readers!



Here are the books featured by Mirissa:

- Watersong* by Tim McCanna
- Eating the Alphabet* by Lois Ehlert
- Moont Earth's Best Friend* by Stacy McAnulty
- Jedi Academy – At Last, Jedi* by Jarrett J. Krosoczka
- Biscuit Meets the Class Pet* by Alyssa Saltin Caspucilli
- Spy School – Secret Service* by Stuart Gibbs

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

Your August 2024 "Focus on the Basics" Tip



Make Art

All of your Imagination Library RVA titles are picture books, meaning each are bursting with colorful illustrations. Once you've read your book together, encourage your toddler to make their own art. They will enjoy scribbling with crayons, markers, chalk, or even finger paint. Your child can start by taking inspiration from your ILRVA books, and before you know it, they'll be creating their masterpieces drawn from their own imagination!

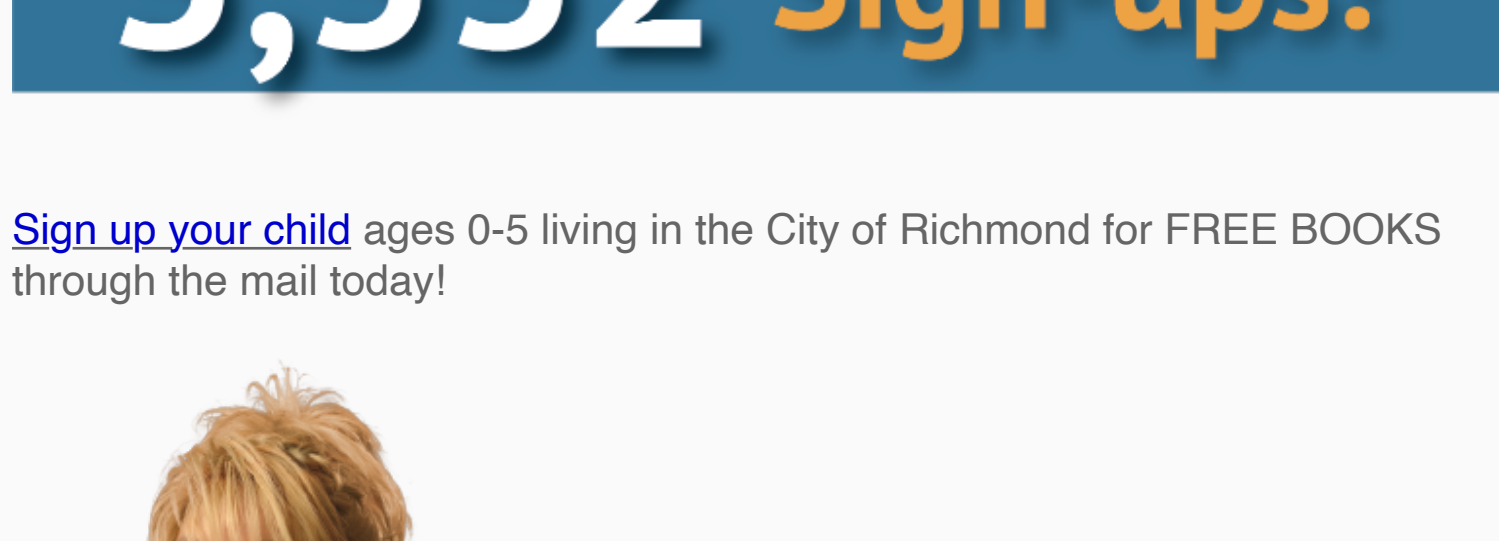
Visit this principle from the Basics [here](#).

To learn more about how you can Explore Through Movement and Play, 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 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 for more information.

Current Number of RVA Readers...



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

Brought to you by

readtothem.org



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