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Let's Read, Richmond!

Welcome to Imagination Library'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!

Visit our website by clicking [here](#).

In the News



We joined Westover Hills Elementary for their Literacy and Art Night. The families at the event were treated to performances by the Guitar Club and a visit with local author and illustrator, Theodore Taylor III. The event was further bolstered by make and take literacy stations and tons of art stations for hands-on activities during the event. Rounding out this night of great fun was a silent auction, where all proceeds benefit the elementary school's library and art department, as well as a presentation by the Richmond Public Library on the Benefits of Reading to Children.

A big thank you to Westover Hills Elementary for inviting us to this wonderful event. We look forward to joining you again next year!

Bring a Book With You

Your April 2025 reading tip



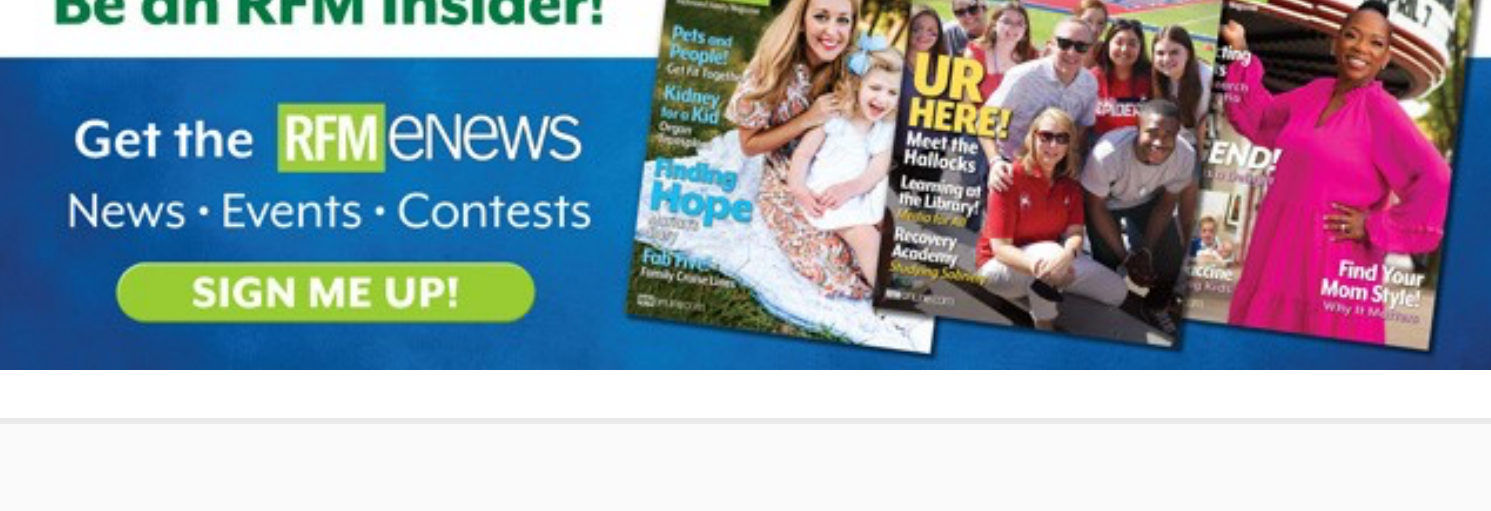
When waiting – be it for the school bus or in line at the grocery store – you might be tempted to pick up your phone to pass the time. Try to get into the habit of carrying a book in your bag or your child's diaper bag. For instance, the next time you're waiting for the school bus, you can spend the wait reading a few pages with your child. You could even bring a book when you go to the doctor's office and explore a story while waiting to be seen. You'll be surprised how many books you can read together in these little moments.

Upcoming Community Partner Events

- April 2**
 - Book Babies**, Ginter Park Library, 10:30 - 11:00am, ages birth to 17 months with a caregiver, free
- April 3**
 - Toddler Time**, Ginter Park Library, 2:00 - 6:00pm, free
- April 4**
 - Opening Nights 2025 at the Diamond**, Ginter Park Library, 5:00 - 10:00pm, \$
 - Family Night Hike**, Maymont Children's Farm, 8:30 - 8:30pm, ages 4 and older, children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult, \$
- April 5**
 - Come, Read to Caffe the Dog!**, Ginter Park Library, 9:00am - 5:00pm, free
 - Richmond Fling Sweets - Kids Club Talent Showcase**, The Diamond, 12:30pm - 5:00pm, free
- April 7**
 - Book Babies**, East End Library, 10:00 - 10:45am, free
 - Toddler Time**, East End Library, 11:00am - 12:00pm, free
- April 8**
 - Week of the Young Child: Tots, Tumble**, East End Library, 12:00 - 1:00pm, take caution if there are allergy concerns to berries and apples, free
 - Baby Artist w/ RPA**, Children's Museum of Richmond - Downtown, 3:30 - 4:30pm, free
- April 11**
 - Moves at the Museum**, Children's Museum of Richmond - Downton, 2:15 - 2:45pm, recommended for dancers ages 2 to 5, parents may need to join children under 3, free
 - Bella Ballerina Pop Up Dance Class**, Children's Museum of Richmond - Downtown, 2:15 - 2:45pm, free with museum admission
- April 15**
 - Child Abuse Awareness Event with Greater Richmond SCAN**, Oak Grove Complex, 9:30 - 7:30pm, contact Kevin Robertson (804) 952-8100 for details, and see flyer below.
- April 19**
 - Dominion Energy Family Easter**, Robins Nature Center or Maymont Farm at Maymont, 9:00am - 3:00pm, free for Maymont members and Museums for all (with SNAP/EBT card), \$
- April 21**
 - Out-of-School Day Camps presented by CofE Federal Credit Union**, Maymont, 9:00am - 3:00pm, \$

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](#).



Community Partner Spotlight

ROBINSON THEATER COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER

The Robinson exists to encourage, inspire and restore healthy community life to our East End of Richmond neighbors primarily through arts, fitness and nutrition based programs and community events. Youth and Adults from PreK to Seniors can find a class Monday-Thursday such as Hip Hop, Ballet, Art, Cooking & Nutrition, Strength & Conditioning, Cardio Fitness, Theatre and more! The Robinson also loves to provide a space to gather the community together to build relationships, foster social interactions and bring arts & culture to our neighbors through events such as Paint Nights, Block Parties, Fall Festivals, Bingo, Movie or Craft Nights and a plethora of Summer Camp options for youth!

Find more about what the Robinson provides on our website: www.robinsontheater.org or follow us on social media to date offerings on social media: Instagram @Robinson_Theater or Facebook RobinsonTheater.

SPRING 2025 APRIL 7TH - MAY 29TH

REGISTER TODAY!

Church Hill neighbor? (7800-800) 8:00am - 9:00am. General admission \$10 (Family \$20)

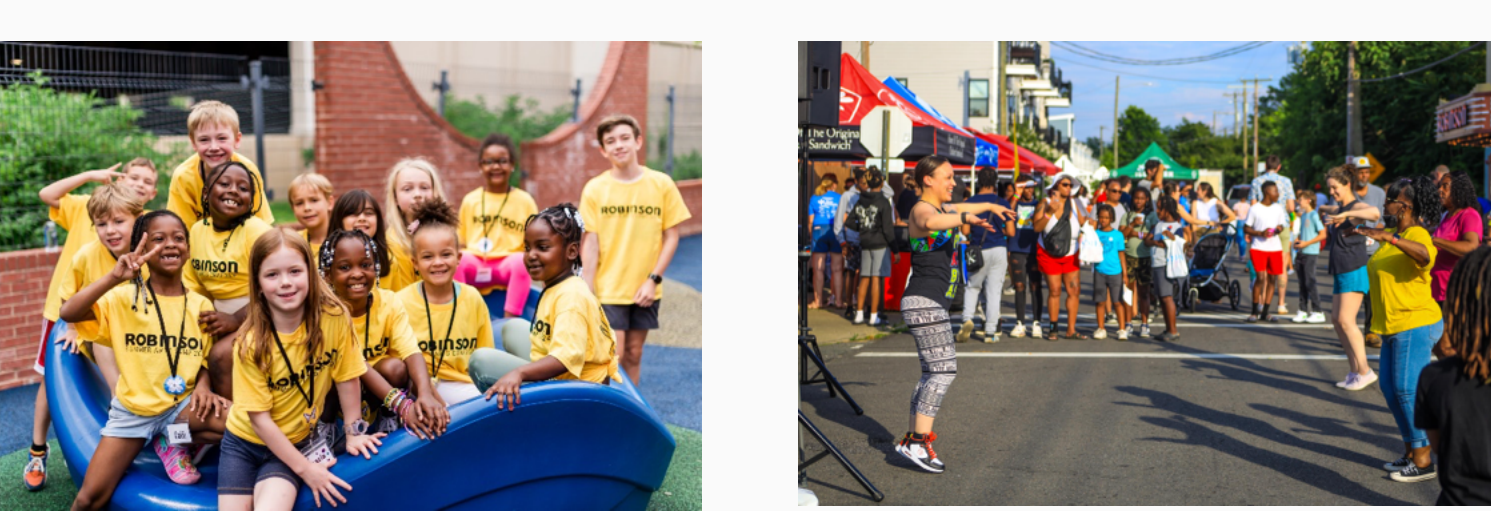
MONDAY
 3:45-4:30pm Art w/ Art on Wheels (3rd-6th Grade)
 3:45-4:30pm Tap Dancing w/ Mary Manzan (3rd-6th Grade)
 4:30-5:30pm Zumba w/ La Verne (12-adult)

TUESDAY
 6:15-7:00 Strength & Conditioning w/ Toi (16- adult)
 3:45-4:30pm Chef's KISS w/ Chef Jason (3rd-6th grade)
 3:45-4:30pm Youth Hip-Hop w/ Marquis (3rd-6th grade)
 5:30-6p Itty Bitty Performers w/ GRWT (ages 3-6 + Parents)
 5:30-6:30pm Line Dancing w/ Kelli (12-adult)

WEDNESDAY
 3:45-4:30pm Theatre Explorations w/ SPARC (K-2nd grade)
 3:45-4:30pm Theatre w/ Arts to ALL (3rd-5th grade)
 4:30-5:15pm Improv Theatre w/ Arts to ALL (Middle-High)
 4:30-5:15pm Contemporary Dance w/ Allison (Middle-High)
 5:30-6:30pm Cardio Hip-Hop w/ Great Work (16-adult)
 6:30-7:30pm Yoga w/ Tyny Bones (12-adult)

THURSDAY
 6:15-7:00 Strength & Conditioning w/ Great Work (16-adult)
 3:45-4:30pm Beginner Ballet w/ Allison (K-2nd grade)
 3:45-4:30pm Intermediate Ballet w/ Richmond Ballet (3rd-6th grade)
 5:30-6:30pm Hot Pilates w/ Aida (16-adult)

ROBINSON THEATER COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER



All Together Tuesday

SCAN Child Abuse Awareness Event

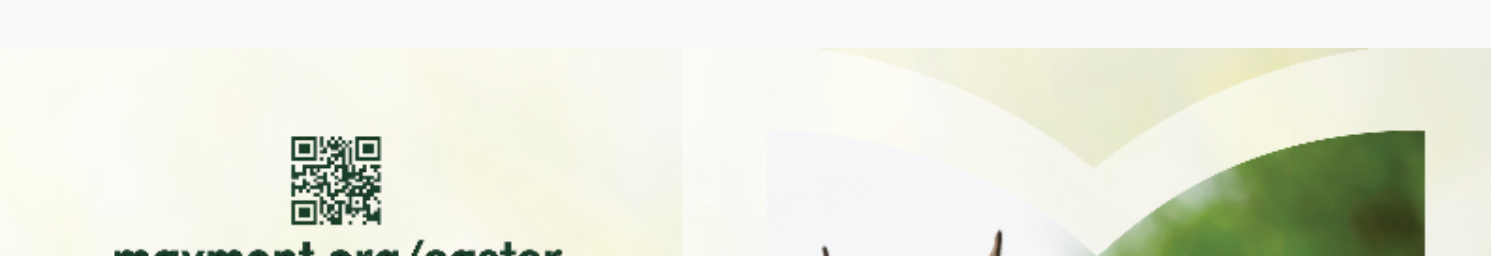
It's a community partner take over! Join us in welcoming Greater Richmond SCAN to discuss the importance of child abuse awareness, with keynote speaker Jessica Brickley.

- We will offer:
- Engaging workshops
 - Interactive activities
 - Relaxing massages with aromatherapy
 - Dolly Parton Imagination Library
 - Complimentary refreshments

April 15th
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Oak Avenue Complex
15 S. Oak Ave.
Highland Springs, VA 23075

Contact Kevin Robertson at 804-952-8100 for details.



Download the flyer [here](#)

maymont.org/easter

Admission Prices
Adult & Children (ages 1-12): \$5

Maymont Members and Museums for All participants receive **FREE** Admission

April 19
 9am - 3pm
Dominion Energy Family Easter

Click [here](#) to learn more.

We Love Our Local Libraries!

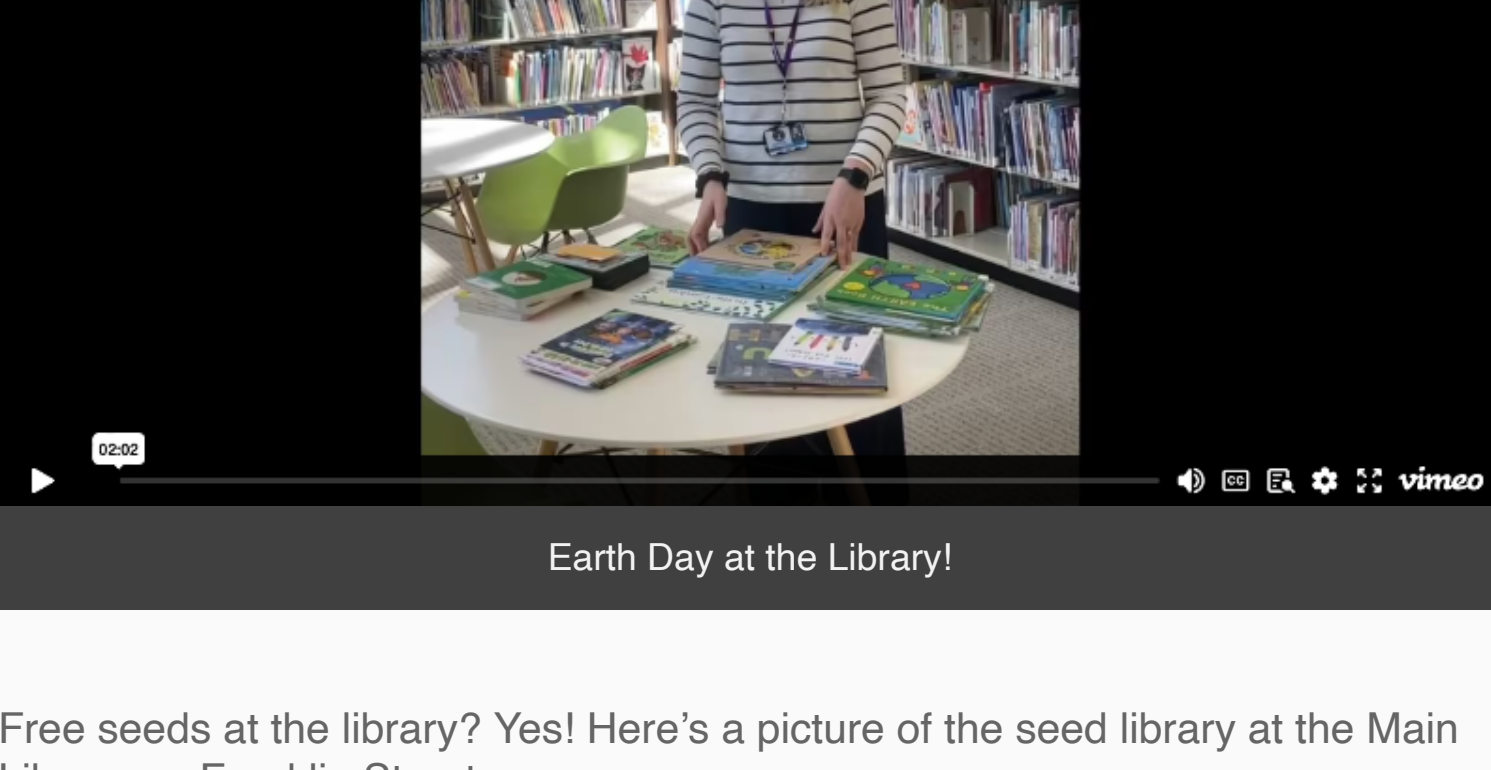
Libraries offer a variety of resources and tools - usually for FREE! Not a member of your local library? Sign up wherever you are today.

This section of our newsletter shows examples of library offerings, brought to you by Richmond Public Libraries.

Celebrate Earth Day at the Library!

Happy Earth Day!

Earth Day is April 22, and Richmond Public Library is ready to help you celebrate. You can find books about conservation, gardening, plants, and animals - all for FREE at your local branch. Friendly librarians, like Sarah Fenninger at Main Library, are ready to help you find a big stack of books for every member of your family.



Free seeds at the library? Yes! Here's a picture of the seed library at the Main Library on Franklin Street.

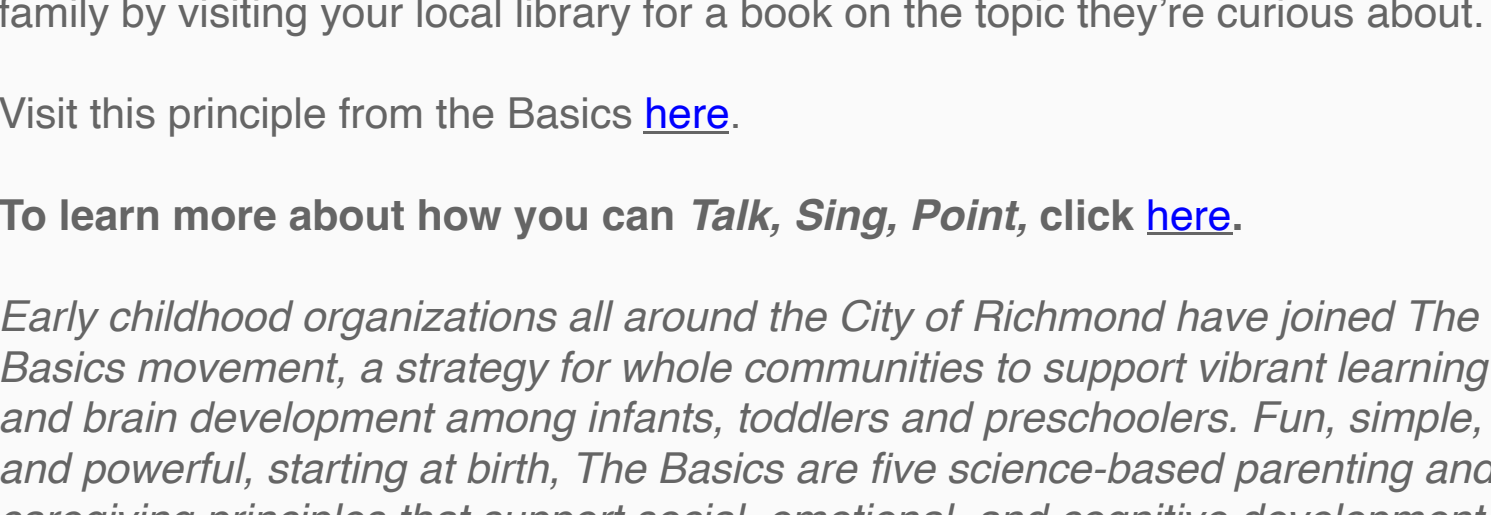


Interested in the Earth Day books featured by Sarah in the video? [Here are the titles and authors](#) - you can look for them when you go to your branch!

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!

Learn About the World with Your Child This Month!

Your April 2025 "Focus on the Basics" Tip



Learn How They See the World
Reading a book together is the perfect time to expose your child to new topics and ideas, and to expand what they already know. When you're out and about, try asking, "What do you know about _____?" See what they can tell you! If they come up empty, don't discourage them. Use this opportunity to learn as a family by visiting your local library for a book on the topic they're curious about.

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

To learn more about how you can *Talk, Sing, Point, click here*.

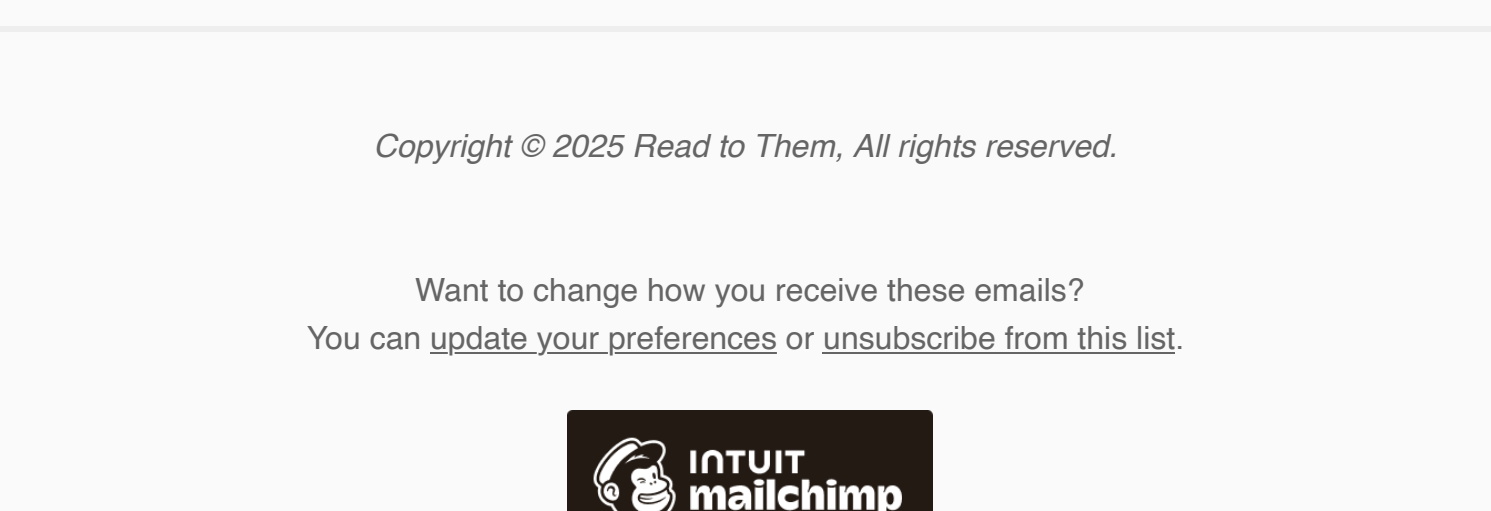
Early childhood organizations all around the City of Richmond have joined The Basics movement, a strategy for whole communities to support vibrant learning and brain development among infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Fun, simple, and powerful, starting at birth, The Basics are five science-based parenting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

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Current Number of Local Imagination Library Readers...

Celebrating 4,270 Sign-ups!

Check availability in your area today!



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