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### Cultivate the Joy of Reading Together

February 2025  
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).

#### The Value of Board Books

Your February 2025 reading tip



If you are reading to a very young child, you don't have to go straight to picture books. Try letting your little one explore a board book! They are the perfect bridge between books and toys, as they can withstand lots of play. They are also the perfect opportunity for babies (and toddlers) to view books as friends.

#### Upcoming Community Partner Events

- February 4**
  - Preschool Storytime** - Ginter Park Library, 10:30 - 11:00am, ages 3-5 with an adult, free
- February 6**
  - Family Story Time**, East End Library, 11:00 - 11:30am, ages 0-5 with an adult, free
  - DIY Balletina Tutus**, Main Library, 4:30 - 5:30pm, toddlers and pre-schoolers with an adult, free
- February 14**
  - Movers at the Museum**, Children's Museum of Richmond - Downtown, 2:15 - 2:45pm, ages 2-5, 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](#).

**Be an RFM Insider!**

Get the **RFM NEWS**  
News • Events • Contests

**SIGN ME UP!**

## Seymour Moves!

**Movement enhances learning and promotes brain growth!**

Walk *The Green* with us every Tuesday morning from 10 AM to 10:30 A.M.

Then come to the Children's Museum and learn through play!

**Children's Museum OF RICHMOND**

#### Community Partner Spotlight



**Maymont** is a 100-acre green space in the heart of Richmond where nature, history, and exploration come together. Often named as one of Richmond's top destinations for families, Maymont welcomes everyone to explore its miles of walking trails and spacious lawns, discover historic landscaped gardens, feed friendly farm animals, and see rescued native wildlife in their natural habitats. The grounds are open daily from 10AM to 5PM during the winter, 10AM to 7PM from March through October.

Admission is free (except during scheduled events) and donations are welcome to support the nonprofit Maymont Foundation, which cares for the grounds, gardens, animals, and historic buildings, including the historic Maymont Mansion (currently closed for a restoration project). For families with SNAP/EBT cards, the Museums for All program offers free or reduced admission for the Robins Nature Center and special events.

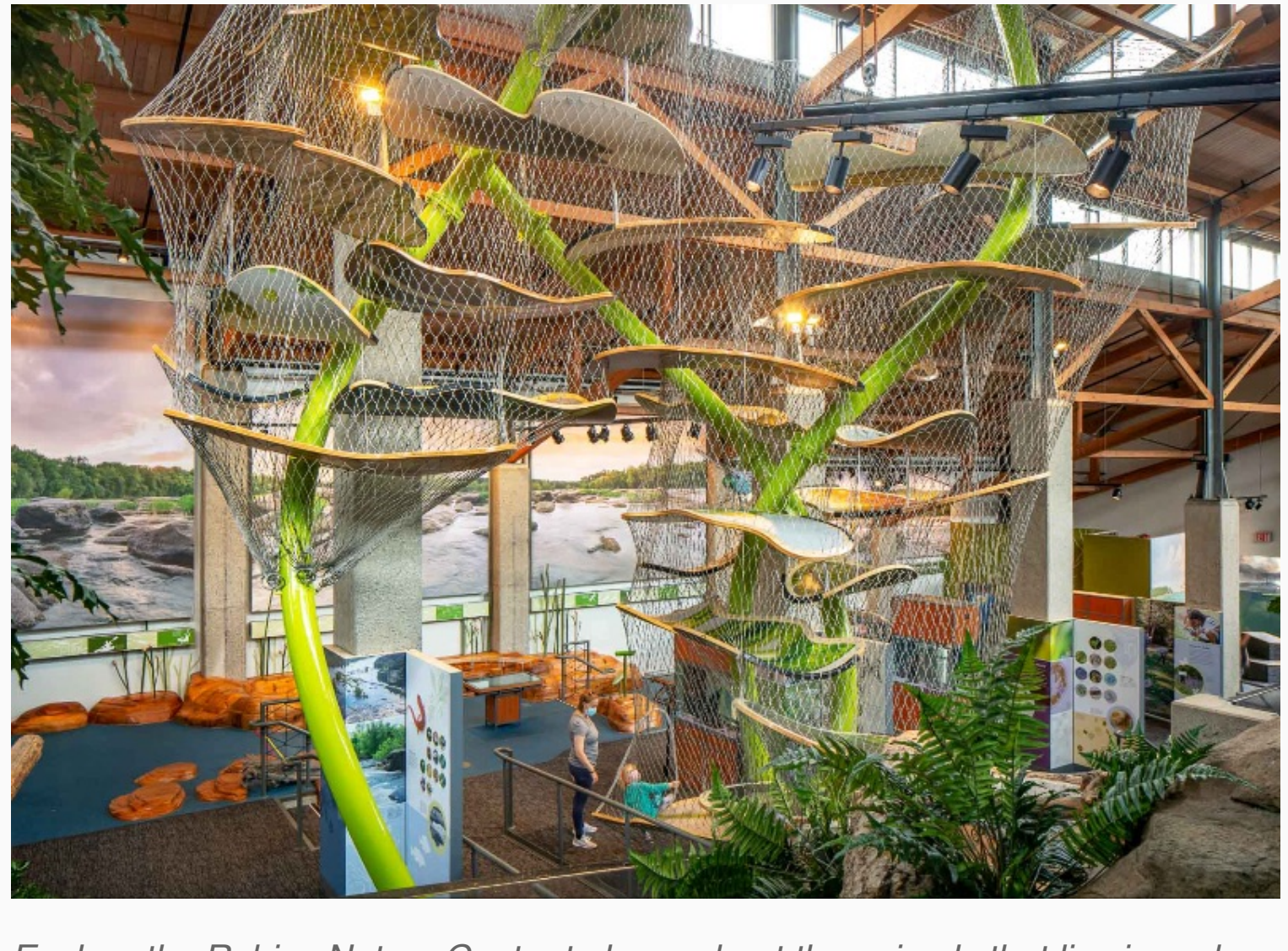
Activities for children include:

- Maymont Farm** (open daily, free) is a great way to nurture a child's interest in nature
- The Robins Nature Center** (Fridays - Sundays, 10am - 5 pm, \$8 for adults, \$6 for children, free for members and Museums for All) to see river otters and other creatures that live in and around the James River
- Toddler Time** presented by Virginia Family Dentistry (Mondays, 10 - 11 am, January - March, September - December, \$15)
- Summer Camps**\* (June - August, cost varies) week-long adventures in nature and history for kids ages 3 - 13
- Out of School Day Camps**\* presented by Call Federal Credit Union (when schools have planned breaks, \$80)
- Homeschool Days** (weekly during the academic year) for curriculum enrichment
- Family Night Hikes** (one per month, March-May, \$15) explore Maymont after dark on a guided nature hike

\* (scholarships are available)



Maymont Farm lets kids learn about animals and nature - up close!



Explore the Robins Nature Center to learn about the animals that live in and around the James River... and play on the jungle gym, too!

#### 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!

#### Celebrate Black History Month at the Library!

Your local branch of the **Richmond Public Library (RPL)** can help you celebrate Black History Month with lots of choices for everyone in your family. Beth Morris of Main Library on Franklin Street has a few suggestions to get you started:



Every RPL branch has a children's librarian ready to help you find a stack of books to take home and enjoy. Did you know you can check out up to 99 items on your RPL library card? And remember - the Richmond Public Library system is fine free. As long as you return your books, you will never be charged a fine.

Does one of Beth's selections look interesting to you? Click [here](#) for a downloadable list of her suggested titles.

#### Be a Little Silly with Your Child This Month!

Your February 2025 "Focus on the Basics" Tip



#### Don't Be Too Serious

Your child (especially if they're a toddler) may want to turn the page before you have finished reading. They may even want to tell their own version of the story, and that's okay! Stoke their imagination by being a good listener and remember to follow their lead. Try not to be too concerned if they can't sit still for the whole book - this is still vital parent-child quality time and the making of unforgettable memories.

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

To learn more about how you can Read and Discuss Stories, 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](http://theBasicsVirginia.org) for more information.

#### Current Number of RVA Readers...

**Celebrating 4,118 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!"**

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