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Enjoy the magic of reading together!

December 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

Give little hands something to do...

Your December 2024 reading tip



Young children can be restless. However engrossing your story is, some children have a hard time holding still to listen.

The solution? Try giving them something to do with their hands! Let them play with blocks or cards or marbles. Give them some crayons and let them color while they listen. You could even let them braid hair, fold laundry, dry the dishes, or arrange dominoes.

All are excellent ways to engage the hands - while the mind can listen to the details of your story.



Giving Tuesday is Dec. 3rd! With generous support from people like you, we can help give free books to children in our area. [Please consider giving today.](#) Thank you!

Upcoming Community Partner Events

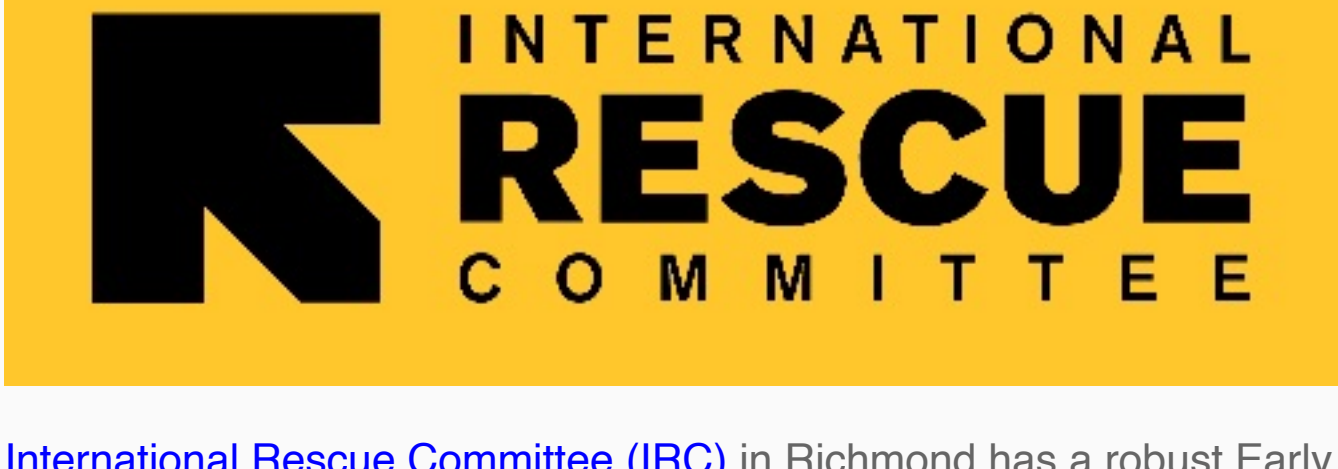
- Through Dec. 24
 - **Legendary Santa**, Children's Museum of Richmond - Downtown, S, see their [website](#) for times and tickets
- December 2
 - **Make It! Monday**, Ginter Park Library, 4:30pm - 5:30pm, free
- December 3
 - **Preschool Story Time**, Ginter Park Library, 10:30am-11:30am, free for ages 3-5 with an adult
- December 4
 - **Tutus & Ties** - Downtown, Children's Museum of Richmond - Downtown, 2:00-2:30pm, \$

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



The [International Rescue Committee \(IRC\)](#) in Richmond has a robust Early Childhood Program that supports parents, assists with preschool registration, and highlights learning opportunities at home and across the region. In July 2023, the IRC began developing a "Learning Together" group for those families with young children who were unable to attend preschool. Focusing on the Basics, this class taught young ones and their parents' skills to create a seamless transition to kindergarten in the fall.

IRC supported the enrollment of 28 preschoolers for the 2024-2025 school year, with 25 students in Henrico County Public Schools and 3 in Richmond Public Schools. We have coordinated preschool open houses and conducted home visits with each family over the summer to encourage school readiness and healthy behaviors.

Helping young clients and their families begin their school career in a safe and encouraging way is just one way that the IRC continues to provide support. The Early Childhood Program at the IRC in Richmond helps young learners take that first step toward a successful educational journey and partnerships like the Imagination Library allow our Youth team to provide students with fun and engaging materials that will help along the way. Stay up to date with our work by following us on Instagram and Facebook.



Learning Together group working on skills, such as raising your hand, to set young students up for success in kindergarten.

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!

Family Movies at the Library!
Lights! Camera! Action!
Grab some popcorn, settle in, and enjoy the show.
Did you know that Richmond Public Library is a great place for movies? It is! You can find DVDs of lots of different kinds of movies, including some that are based on your favorite children's books. And, some branches show movies at the library - all for free!

Here's Joan from the West End Branch with more information:



Of course, we recommend reading the book before you watch the movie!
To find the schedule of movies being shown at the branch libraries, head to the [Event Calendar](#) and look under **Category for Movies**.

Here are some of Joan's favorite book/movie combinations:

- A Bear Called Paddington* by Michael Bond
- How to Train Your Dragon* by Cressida Cowell
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl
- The BFG* by Roald Dahl
- Matilda* by Roald Dahl
- Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo
- The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo
- The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame
- A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle
- The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis
- White Fang* by Jack London
- Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Patterson
- Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls
- How to Eat Fried Worms* by Thomas Rockwell
- The Invention of Hugo Cabaret* by Brian Selznick
- Mary Poppins* by P.L. Travers
- Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White

The children's department at the West End branch is bright, cheerful, and welcoming. Stop by and explore!



And be sure to pick up the latest copy of *What's Happening* for every detail about all the library has to offer.

Count with Your Child This Month!

Your December 2024 "Focus on the Basics" Tip



Count Sets of Objects
While you read with your child, encourage your child to point to each illustration on the page and count together. See how many there are in total! "One, two, three, four - there are four illustrations!" You can also challenge your child with counting the illustrations per page, the illustrations per book, or even the number of words in a sentence.

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 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.

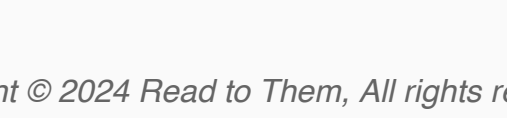
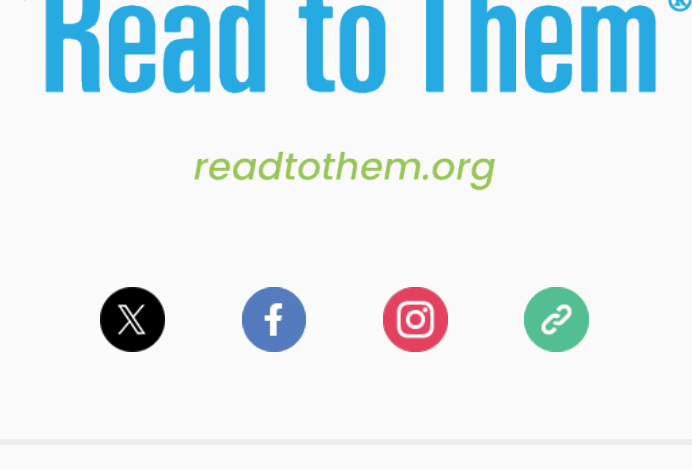
Current Number of RVA Readers...



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



Brought to you by



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