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Happy Back to School!

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 Had a Blast at RPS Summer Fest!
Richmond Public School's Summer Fest is always a massive hit in the Richmond community. Last month, this back-to-school event brought folks together at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School for a day of fun, food, and prizes as families signed their little ones up for preschool. By the close of the event, members of the Imagination Library RVA team registered dozens of children to receive free books.

As schools across RVA open their doors and summer slips away, we look forward to joining RPS again for next year's Summer Fest!

ILRVA Graduation Party!

Join us for a **Graduation Party**

If your child has "graduated" from Imagination Library RVA by turning 5 years old, we'd love to honor and celebrate your child for being a part of the program!

Date: September 7th, 2024
Time: 10am - 12pm
Place: Main Library
 101 E. Franklin Street

Please join us for refreshments, crafts, and a book to take home.

RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY | www.imaginationlibraryrva.org

RSVP by filling out the form here.

Explain the Unknown!

Your September 2024 reading tip



It can be so easy to lose yourself in a book... especially once you've set a proper rhythm! Try keeping your little listener engaged by stopping to explain new words or unfamiliar topics. You don't have to come to a full-stop, either—a brief pause is just fine.

This simple act is a wonderful way to slowly but surely build your child's vocabulary and to broaden their knowledge of the world around them. You'll quickly be surprised by all the learning opportunities that will present themselves while you read!

Upcoming Community Partner Events

- September 3**
 - Tutus & Ties on Tuesdays, Children's Museum of Richmond Downtown, 2:00 - 2:30pm, \$
- September 5**
 - Bilingual Storytime - French, Children's Museum of Richmond Downtown, 10:30am - 11:00am, free with museum admission
 - Educator Night in Honor of Spanish Heritage Month, Book People, 4:30pm-6:30pm, free
- September 7**
 - Imagination Library RVA Graduation Party, Main Library, 10:00am - 12:00pm, free
- September 8**
 - Richmond Flying Squirrels - Fan Appreciation Day, The Diamond, 12:30 - 5:00pm, Kids Club Sundays are free for all kids ages 14 and younger every home game at The Diamond.

Have a community event you would like us to include? [Email us!](mailto:info@ilrva.org)

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

Partner Spotlight



Established in 2010, the local [Excellence in Children's Early Language and Literacy \(ExCELL\)](http://ExcellenceinChildrensEarlyLanguageandLiteracy.org) non-profit program has consistently provided programming that supports high-quality early childhood experiences in partnership with Richmond Public Schools (RPS) for early childhood educators and families. Since its inception ExCELL has provided training and assistance to hundreds of RPS classroom teachers, educators, and administrators, as well as thousands of families and children. Through ExCELL's programs and training, teachers have demonstrated significant improvements in the quality of teacher-child interactions, the quality of classroom language and literacy environments, and the use of research-based instructional strategies. Also, families and parents have significantly enhanced their home literacy environments and improved use of community resources (Families use libraries, parks, and other locations visited on field trips.) Child outcomes have consistently shown significant gains in all targeted early literacy skills, including 95-100% of children meeting benchmarks in three key predictors of later reading achievement, alphabet knowledge, emergent writing, and phonological awareness for students in ExCELL supported classrooms.

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!

Preschool Story Time
Reading aloud to your child is one of the very best ways to build literacy skills. Preschoolers love stories full of wordplay and humor, especially when there are vibrant, engaging illustrations to explore.

One great way to expand your read-aloud experience is by going to [story time](http://storytime) at your local public library branch. You can see a pro in action, meet some new friends, and check out a stack of books to take home.

Here is April from the Hull Street branch to give you all the details:



The children's area of the Hull Street branch is bright and inviting – ready for you to come visit!



Here are some of April's favorite books for preschoolers:
From Head to Toe by Eric Carle
Miss Kindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten by Joseph Slate
David Gets in Trouble by David Shannon
Llama Llama Gram and Grandpa by Anna Dewdney
Pete the Cat and the Cool Cat Boogie by Kimberly and James Dean

Don't Forget to Pause for New Words to This Month!

Your September 2024 "Focus on the Basics" Tip



Pause for New Words
Books often serve as gateways for new vocabulary. When you are reading with your child, take a moment to point out words your child doesn't know. It can be helpful to pause and explain what the words mean. For instance, if you encounter the term lavender, you could say, "That's a type of flower. It's light purple and smells really nice."

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 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!

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

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