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Spring into reading!

May 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



Use the Whisper Effect

Your May 2024 reading tip



You can use different reading effects to bring each story to life. Kids love when you ham it up, reading some characters' dialogue louder or with more energy—but you can still have them on the edge of their seat when you read more quietly.

You can bring the emotion or drama out of some key moments by employing the whisper effect. When reading an important line or message, dial it down and merely...whisper. Your listening child will be even more attentive, they'll remember that moment, and they'll ask for more.

Upcoming Community Partner Events

- May 4**
 - Imagination Library RVA Graduation Party, Main Library, 11:00am - 1:00pm, free
- May 7**
 - \$10 Days at the Science Museum of Virginia, all day, free
 - Tutus & Ties on Tuesdays, Children's Museum of Richmond Downtown, 2:00-2:30pm, \$
- May 11**
 - Richmond Performing Arts Alliance's Lights Up! Finale, Dominion Energy Center, 10am-1pm, free with pre-registration
- May 14**
 - Pop-up Class for 1st to 4th Graders, SPARC: School of Performing Arts in the Richmond Community, 5:00-6:00pm, free
 - Baby Artplay! Drop-In Session, Children's Museum of Richmond Downtown, 3:30-4:00pm, free
- May 17**
 - Sensory Friendly Nights, Children's Museum of Richmond Downtown, 5:00-7:00pm, free
- May 19**
 - Richmond Flying Squirrels - Disability Inclusion Day & Rally Towel Giveaway, 12:30-5:00pm, kids get in free
- May 21**
 - Baby Artplay! Drop-In Session, Main Library, 10:30 - 11:00am, free
 - Pop-up Class for 1st to 4th Graders, SPARC: School of Performing Arts in the Richmond Community, 4:00-4:45pm, free

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

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: May 4th, 2024
Time: 11am - 1pm
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

Imagination Library RVA News

Richmond Romp & Read

Date: June 2nd, 2024
Time: 3-5pm
Place: Bellemeade Park
 1800 Krouse Street
 Richmond, VA 23224

Come play at Bellemeade Park!
Play clothes and sneakers recommended!
 Let's spread the love of reading and empower our community through literacy.

- Storytime
- Free books and raffle prizes
- Nature activities, painting, and games

ImaginationLibraryRVA.org

A special thank you to the generous support of our community partners!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the first-ever Richmond Romp & Read Literacy Fair! The event takes place June 2nd at Bellemeade Park.

For more information, check out the flyer above.

Partner Spotlight



Birdhouse Market is Richmond's only mid-week, year-round farmers market focused on providing healthy, fresh food to the surrounding community. Located in Petronius Jones Park in the Randolph neighborhood, Birdhouse provides a fun and easy shopping experience for the whole family. Birdhouse offers weekly children's programming, live music and sing-a-longs, and occasionally, Birdhouse Community Garden programming for all ages throughout the in-person market season. This year, Birdhouse is introducing 7 new vendor spots, allowing them to bring even more delicious variety into the neighborhood! Among the vendors, you will find fresh fruits and veggies, prepared hot foods, sweet treats, kombucha and water kefir, and even pre-made meals you can make for yourself at home! Birdhouse Farmers Market is proud to accept SNAP/EBT and participates in the Virginia Fresh Match Program to double the dollar on fresh produce for SNAP/EBT customers. Please refer to the Birdhouse Farmers Market Website for more information on how to use SNAP/EBT at market.

Birdhouse Farmers Market operates in-person and online May-November, every Tuesday from 3:00pm-6:30pm. The in-person market season offers customers the opportunity to shop in person OR order ahead with pick up at the welcome tent if they are short on time or want to make sure they get the items that may sell out before they can do their own shopping. The winter, online only market runs December-April and allows customers to order online with pickup every Tuesday from 4pm-6pm.

The Imagination Library will be at the Birdhouse Farmers Market on the following dates: May 28th, June 11th, July 16th, and August 13th with potentially more dates to come!

We hope to see you there!



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!

Babies Love Books!

The Imagination Library is built on the idea that it is never too early to start reading to a child. Richmond Public Library believes the same thing which is why they have special story times just for babies at every branch.

Why should you take your baby to story time? Listen to Lisa from the Main branch on Franklin Street to learn more.



Story time is good for your baby and fun for you, too! And giving to story time gives you the chance to watch a pro read aloud—you might pick up a few new tricks for reading aloud at home! While you are at the library, pick up some board books to take home.

Here are the books Lisa mentioned in the video, along with a few more to look for on the board book shelves:

- The Nose, Toes, and Tummy Book* by Sally Nicholls
- Ten Tiny Tickles* by Karen Katz
- I Love My Hair!* by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley
- My Numbers/Mis Numeros* by Rebecca Emberley
- Dim Sun for Everyone* by Grace Lin
- How Do You Say?/¿Cómo se dice?* by Angela Dominguez
- Dinosaurs Roar* by Steve Jenkins
- From Head to Toe/De la cabeza a los pies* by Eric Carle
- Love the World by Todd Parr*
- Love Makes a Family* by Sophie Beer
- Kiss Good Night* by Amy Hest
- Everywhere Babies* by Susan Meyers



Go Easy On Yourself This Month - And Every Month!

Your May 2024 "Focus on the Basics" Tip



Go Easy On Yourself

If you've never read aloud before, the prospect of picking up a book for the first time can seem daunting. Don't be embarrassed if you stumble on a word or two: reading aloud gets easier with practice! If you're looking for a reading aloud model, try attending a story time at your local library. Don't forget to focus on the big picture—spending time with your child and creating lasting memories—and be gentle with yourself when things don't go as planned. Remember that it's okay to ask for help.

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

To learn more about how you can *Maximize Love, Manage Stress*, [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.

Current Number of RVA Readers...

Celebrating 2,726 Sign-ups!

Sign up your child aged 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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