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### There's Lots of Fun to be Had!

March 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](http://www.ImaginationLibraryRVA.org).



### Finish the Rhyme!

Your March 2024 reading tip



Guide your child into the language of your book by teaching them to anticipate what words come next. If you've read Dr. Seuss's *Green Eggs and Ham* just once, the next time you read the lines...

Would you like them in a house?

Would you like them with a mouse?

Would you eat them in a box?

Would you eat them with a \_\_\_\_\_?

Stop right there, and let your child finish the rhyme!

Soon, you may recognize other opportunities, and show your child to pay attention to the characters, the pictures, the story, and the language of other books!

### Upcoming Community Partner Events

**March 1**

- Dr. Seuss Story Time, Children's Museum of Richmond, 1:30 - 2:00pm, \$
- Culture Fest Fridays: Ireland, Children's Museum of Richmond, 3:30 - 4:30pm, \$

**March 2**

- Nutzy's Block Party with the Flying Squirrels, The Diamond 10:00am - 1:00pm, free
- Toddler Book Club, bbbg tales for kids, 11:00 - 11:30am, free

**March 4**

- Toddler Time, Maymont Nature Center, 10:00am - 11:00am, \$
- \$10 Days, Science Museum of Virginia, 9:30am - 5:00pm, \$

**March 12**

- Baby Artplay! Drop-In Session, Children's Museum of Richmond Downtown, 3:30 - 4:00pm, free

**March 15**

- Sensory Friendly Nights, Children's Museum of Richmond Downtown, 5:00pm - 7:00pm, free

**March 16**

- Greater Richmond Children's Library Concert, Richmond Main Library, 2:00 - 3:00pm, free

**March 19**

- Baby Artplay! Drop-In Session, Main Library, 10:30 - 11:00am, free

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

### Imagination Library RVA News



#### City of Richmond Partners with Imagination Library RVA!

We are so pleased to share that the City of Richmond has granted \$20,000 to Imagination Library RVA! This collaborative effort aims to empower young minds through Imagination Library RVA, fostering a life-long love for reading and educational growth among Richmond's youngest scholars.

Read to Them's Executive Director, Christa Donohue, shared her appreciation for the City of Richmond's generous support, saying, "We are so grateful to the City of Richmond for their contribution to Imagination Library RVA. This partnership will enable us to provide more children with the joy and benefits of reading, opening doors to their dreams and creating a more equitable Richmond. Together, we will inspire a love for literacy and empower the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and change-makers."

This grant from the City of Richmond will be pivotal in expanding the program's reach and impact. It is a showcase of the City's commitment to nurturing Richmond earliest readers, and to eliminating the barriers between opportunities for every child in our community for a brighter future for all.

### Partner Spotlight



**Urban Baby Beginnings (UBB)** reduces adverse outcomes and isolation experienced by families during the prenatal, postpartum, and early childhood years by increasing access to maternal health hubs that provide community support, workforce development, and advocacy for birthing and postpartum families.

UBB's hubs offer a village of support created to educate, advocate, and ensure the best outcomes for birthing mothers and their babies up to the child's second birthday. Support services through UBB include virtual and home visiting prenatal and postpartum services, labor and birth support, breastfeeding education and support, formula assistance, diaper bank & baby essential resources and referrals, and community support groups.

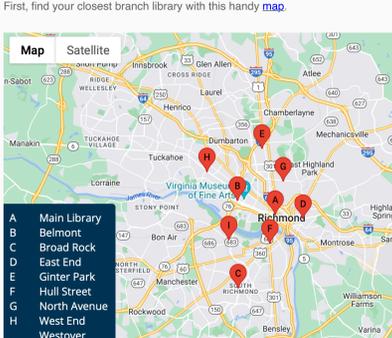
To learn more, refer a new client, volunteer, or donate, please visit our website [UrbanBabyBeginnings.org](http://UrbanBabyBeginnings.org)

### 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!

**Take the GRTC Bus to the Library!**  
 Did you know that you can ride the [GRTC bus](#) to your local branch of [Richmond Public Library](#)? And, just like the library, it is FREE!

First, find your closest branch library with this handy [map](#).



Then use GRTC's handy [Trip Planner](#) to help you find your way from your home to your branch. A friendly librarian will be waiting for you with books – and so much more.



Interested in the bus books featured by Heather from Main Library? Here are the titles and authors – you can look for them when you go to your branch!



*My Bus* by Byron Barton  
*Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña

### Indulge in Playing Pretend with Your Child This Month!

Your March 2024 "Focus on the Basics" Tip



#### Play Pretend

Playing pretend is a magnificent way for children to unleash their imagination. For instance, try pretending you and your child are camping. You can build a blanket tent by using a couple of chairs and some couch cushions. Open up a whole new world of storytelling opportunities by bringing a book along!

To learn more about *Exploring Through Movement and Play*, [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**  
**2,673 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!"**

Brought to you by

[readtothem.org](http://readtothem.org)

