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Back to Books, Richmond!

September 2026

Welcome to Imagination Library'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!

Visit our website by clicking [here](#).

In the News

Celebrating Summer Reading



We had a wonderful time celebrating a summer of reading at Richmond Public Library's Summer Reading Finale at Park365! Families enjoyed a morning filled with stories, crafts, activities, and plenty of outdoor fun alongside community partners.

Dolly even got to hang out with a fellow champion for early literacy, Ripple the Otter! We're always excited for opportunities to come together with our library partners and celebrate the joy of reading with families across our community.

Supporting Bright Beginnings



We were thrilled to support the Greater Richmond YMCA's Bright Beginnings program by donating several boxes of books for local children. We're grateful for community partners like the Y who share our commitment to helping children learn, grow, and build a lifelong love of reading.

Community Partner Spotlight



Established in 2010, Excellence in Children's Early Language and Literacy (ExCell) works with educators, families, and community partners to strengthen early language and literacy experiences for young children.

ExCell offers resources families can enjoy at home, including [virtual family resources](#) and [Circle Time at Home](#), a children's program produced with VPM featuring local teachers, musicians, and artists. Designed for preschool and kindergarten-age children, the program brings engaging early learning activities right into the home.

Upcoming Community Partner Events

September 2

[Wonder-FULL Wednesdays – Toddler Program](#)

📍 CMOR Downtown

🕒 10:15-10:45am 🎟 ages 3 and under

September 5

[Family Shrink Art](#)

📍 Westover Hills Library

🕒 11:30am-12:30pm 🎟 all ages

September 8

[STEAM Team: What Makes Pinecones Open and Close?](#)

📍 Ginter Park Library

🕒 12-12:45pm 🎟 birth-5 years

September 12

[Read to Callie the Dog!](#)

📍 Ginter Park Library

🕒 10:30-11:30am 🎟 5-10 years

September 13

[Reading Rhythms](#)

📍 Main Library

🕒 3:30-4pm 🎟 birth-5 years

September 14

[Play Connections](#)

📍 Main Library

🕒 10-11:15am 🎟 birth-5 years

September 15

[Pinecone Birdfeeders](#)

📍 Ginter Park Library

🕒 12-1pm 🎟 birth-10 years

September 16

[Toddler Time](#)

📍 Maymont, Robins Nature Center

🕒 10-11am 🎟 18 months-4 years (\$)

September 19

[VA Opera Presents: Three Little Pigs](#)

📍 Main Library

🕒 11am-12pm 🎟 best for ages 3+

September 20

[Your Library Card Rocks! with Chris Campbell](#)

📍 Main Library

🕒 3:30-4:30pm 🎟 birth-10 years

September 25

[International Dot Day Celebration](#)

📍 Belmont Library

🕒 10:30-11:15am 🎟 best for ages 2-5

September 27

[National Ghost Hunting Day Scavenger Hunt](#)

📍 Ginter Park Library

🕒 all day 🎟 birth-13 years

PRESENTS

FUN fest

FREE event promoting family fun, wellness, & outdoor play!

FEATURED STATIONS

Smoothie Bike ♦ Caterpillar Obstacle Course ♦ Butterfly Breathing
Active Games ♦ Book Inspired Tasting Trail ♦ Lego Art Fun

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

2-4 pm

Park 365 - 3600 Saunders Avenue



FREE event, but registration requested

EVENT SPONSORS

Movement Maker **Allianz** 

Active Ally **Patient First** 

Play Partner **VIRGINIA Credit Union** 

Virginia Family Destiny  **RICHARDSON & COLLE** 

Marketing  **Richmond Family Magazine** 

JUNIOR LEAGUE
RICHMOND

21st Annual **touch a TRUCK**  Est. 2006

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

RICHMOND RACEWAY

VIP: 9 AM - 2 PM
GA: 10 AM - 2 PM

WWW.RICHMONDTOUCHATRUCK.ORG

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](#).

**Weekend Events, Giveaways,
and More**

Delivered Straight to Your Inbox

Sign up for RFM eNews





PARENT & PROVIDER RESOURCE LINE

Big Feelings? Challenging Behavior? New Diagnosis? Not Sure What to Do Next?

You're not alone! With Just Ask, you can connect instantly with compassionate professionals in infant and early childhood development, who are ready to guide you in real time.

We Can Help With:

- Tantrums, biting, & big emotions
- Social-emotional development & co-regulation
- Developmental milestone questions
- Screening and evaluation guidance
- Child care and early intervention referrals
- Practical strategies you can use immediately

What Makes This Different?

- Staffed by professionals equipped with Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health knowledge
- Evidence-informed strategies tailored to your situation
- Support before concerns escalate into crisis
- Direct connections to trusted local resources & services.

Where We Serve

- Richmond City
- Henrico County
- Chesterfield County
- Petersburg City

Who We Serve

- Parents & caregivers
- Child care providers
- Preschool teachers
- Home visitors
- Early intervention professionals

Contact Us:

✉ justask@vcu.edu

☎ 804-628-5124

🌐 justask.partnership.vcu.edu

*A pilot initiative by the **Partnership for People with Disabilities** at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Education, supported by Robins Foundation.*




PARENT & PROVIDER RESOURCE LINE

¿Grandes emociones? ¿Conductas desafiantes? ¿Un nuevo diagnóstico? ¿No sabe qué hacer ahora?

¡No está solo! Con Just Ask, puede conectarse rápidamente con profesionales compasivos en desarrollo infantil, listos para orientarle en tiempo real.

Podemos ayudar con:

- Rabietas, mordidas y emociones intensas
- Desarrollo socioemocional y correulación
- Preguntas sobre hitos del desarrollo
- Orientación sobre evaluaciones y pruebas de detección
- Referencias para cuidado infantil e intervención temprana
- Estrategias prácticas para uso inmediato

¿Qué hace diferente a este programa?

- Profesionales en Salud Mental Infantil y de la Primera Infancia
- Estrategias evidentes y adaptadas
- Apoyo preventivo ante preocupaciones
- Conexiones con recursos y servicios locales confiables

Dónde ofrecemos servicios:

- Ciudad de Richmond
- Condado de Henrico
- Condado de Chesterfield
- Ciudad de Petersburg

A quién servimos:

- Padres y cuidadores
- Proveedores de cuidado infantil
- Maestros de preescolar
- Visitadores del hogar
- Profesionales de intervención temprana

Contáctenos:

✉ justask@vcu.edu

☎ 804-628-5124

🌐 justask.partnership.vcu.edu

Una iniciativa piloto de la Asociación para Personas con Discapacidades de la Universidad Virginia Commonwealth (VCU), Escuela de Educación, con el apoyo de la Fundación Robins.



We Love Our Local Libraries!

Your local library has so much to offer! From storytimes and playgroups to homework help, STEM activities, and FREE digital resources, there's something for every family.

Looking for your local library? Use the link below to find the library nearest to you.

 [Find Your Local Library](#)

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!



Your September 2026 Focus on The Basics Tip

**Help with experiments.**

Don't be afraid to experiment with different genres of books! One accessible way to do this is to venture to your local library and seek out all kinds of picture books. You can delve into a variety of board books, concept books, non-fiction picture books, and even early readers with a broader vocabulary and a longer story. Encourage this variety – you might be surprised at the kind of books your child gravitates toward.

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

To learn more about how you can *Explore 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.*

Visit TheBasicsVirginia.org for more information.

Current Number of Local Imagination Library Readers

To check the availability of Imagination Library in your area, [click here](#).



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



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