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Back to Books!

September 2026

Welcome Amelia, South Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Dinwiddie, New Kent, Prince George, and Sussex 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

Central Virginia by the Numbers

A look at the growing impact of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library across Central Virginia. The communities featured here have been serving families for just a year and a half or less.

- 📦 27,000 books mailed
- 👤 2,997 currently enrolled
- ★ 3,467 children served

Together, we're helping more children build a love of reading from birth through age five. Thank you for being part of our story!

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

Amelia

September 4

[Children's Storytime](#)

📍 James L. Hamner Library
🕒 10-11am

September 11

[Children's Storytime](#)

📍 James L. Hamner Library
🕒 10-11am

September 18

[Children's Storytime](#)

📍 James L. Hamner Library
🕒 10-11am

September 25

[Children's Storytime](#)

📍 James L. Hamner Library
🕒 10-11am

South Chesterfield

↑ Ettrick-Matoaca Library (registration required)
🕒 10-10:30am 🎟 birth-5 years

September 12

[Alpaca Adventures](#)

↑ Ettrick-Matoaca Library (registration required)
🕒 11:30am-12:30pm 🎟 3-10 years

September 14

[Reading with Chesterfield EMS](#)

↑ Ettrick-Matoaca Library (registration required)
🕒 10-11am 🎟 3-5 years

September 22

[Family Storytime](#)

↑ Ettrick-Matoaca Library (registration required)
🕒 10-10:30am 🎟 birth-5 years

Colonial Heights

September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

[Family Storytime](#)

↑ Colonial Heights Library
🕒 10:30-11:30am 🎟 3-5 years

September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

[Baby Storytime](#)

↑ Colonial Heights Library
🕒 9:30-10:30am 🎟 birth-2 years

Dinwiddie

September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

[Baby & Me](#)

↑ Dinwiddie Library
🕒 10-10:30am 🎟 birth-2 years

September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

[Storytime](#)

↑ Dinwiddie Library
🕒 10:30-11am 🎟 babies & toddlers

Prince George

September 3, 10, 17, 24

[Baby & Me](#)

↑ Prince George Library
🕒 10-10:30am 🎟 birth-2 years

September 3, 10, 17, 24

[Storytime](#)

↑ Prince George Library
🕒 10:30-11am 🎟 babies & toddlers

Sussex

No library events are scheduled this month. Be sure to check with your local library for upcoming programs and activities!

New Kent

No library events are scheduled this month. Be sure to check with your local library for upcoming programs and activities!



**HOPEWELL RESOURCE AND
COMMUNITY DAY
SAVE THE DATE**

Local resource providers and
community partners are
requested to join us in building a
healthy Hopewell Community.

September 9, 2026
4 PM - 7 PM
Hopewell Department of Social Services
316 E Cawson St.
Hopewell, VA 23860

 For Interested
Resource Providers  For Interested
Volunteers

<https://redcan.link/hopewellcommunityresourceday> <https://redcan.link/hopewellcommunityresourcedayvolunteer>

Brought to you by the Crater Health District,
Hopewell Department of Social Services, and the City of Hopewell.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
Melissa Perez-Diggs 804-382-2667 melissa.diggs@vdh.virginia.gov



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.

Not sure where your local library is? Use the Virginia library locator below to find the library nearest 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!



Experiment with Reading Alongside Your Child This Month!

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 Central Virginia 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 in Amelia, South Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Dinwiddie, New Kent, Prince George, and Sussex



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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