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A Summer Full of Stories, Richmond!

July 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](#).

Celebrating 3 Years in Richmond 🎉

This month marks three years of Imagination Library in Richmond! Thanks to our incredible families, partners, volunteers, and supporters, we've reached some exciting milestones:

- 📖 131,000 books mailed
- 👶 8,000 children enrolled
- 🎓 2,200 graduates

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

In the News

Planting Seeds of Community



This month, we joined [Shalom Farms](#) for their Annual Open House, a celebration of community, fresh food, and healthy living. Shalom Farms works to improve access to nutritious food across the Richmond region through sustainable farming, food distribution, and community partnerships.

We enjoyed connecting with families, sharing information about Imagination Library, and celebrating the many organizations working together to support children and families. Thank you to Shalom Farms for hosting such a wonderful event and for all they do to cultivate a healthier, more connected community.

Upcoming Community Partner Events

- July 1**
[Kindergarten GearUp](#)
📍 Main Library
🕒 9:30-10:30am 🧒 children starting Kindergarten Fall 2026 (registration required)
- July 2**
[Craft Corner: Patriotic Suncatchers](#)
📍 West End Library
🕒 3-5pm 🧒 birth-10 years
- July 4**
[Independence Day Celebration with Richmond Concert Band](#)
📍 Dogwood Dell
🕒 5pm (fireworks at 9pm) 🧒 all ages
- July 6**
[SCRAP RVA Storytime and Craft](#)
📍 SCRAP Creative Reuse
🕒 10-11:15am 🧒 2-5 years (registration required)
- July 7, 14 & 21**
[Front Lawn Fun](#)
📍 Virginia Museum of History & Culture
🕒 10am-12pm 🧒 all ages
- July 8**
[Summer Series All-Abilities Fun @PARK365](#)
📍 SOAR365
🕒 10am-12pm 🧒 all ages
- July 9**
[STEAM Team: Ice Tower Excavation](#)
📍 Ginter Park Library
🕒 12-1pm 🧒 birth-10 years
- July 10**
[Tunes & Toons: Mickey Mouse](#)
📍 Main Library
🕒 10-11am 🧒 birth-5 years
- July 15**
[Adopt-a-Dino Storytime](#)
📍 Westover Hills Library
🕒 11am-12pm 🧒 3-6 years (registration required)
- [Groovy Nate - Children's Music Show](#)
📍 East End Library
🕒 3-4pm 🧒 birth-10 years
- July 24**
[Stomp, Chomp, and Storytime!](#)
📍 Main Library
🕒 10-11am 🧒 birth-5 years
- July 25**
[Mr. B Reads: The Googly Gang to the Mountain!](#)
📍 West End Library
🕒 2-3pm 🧒 3-7 years
- July 27**
[Pirate Ship Building for Toddlers & PreK](#)
📍 Belmont Library
🕒 10:30-11:15am 🧒 2-5 years



EMPOWERING PARENTS

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) offers in-home parenting support to anyone with a child ages 0-5 years within the Greater Richmond community. Lessons are offered in **Dari** or **English** and interpretation is available for other languages.



Zarnigar Haidari
Early Childhood Navigator
(804) 659-3839
Haidari.Zarnigar@rescue.org

The International Rescue Committee in Richmond
2004 Brevo Rd., Suite 200,
Richmond, VA 23229

WHAT THE PROGRAM OFFERS

- 5 in-home lessons taught by IRC's Early Childhood Navigator
 - Child Safety
 - Brain Development
 - Healthy habits
 - Parenting
 - Positive Discipline
- Learning Kits
- Pre and Post Tests
- Parents that participate can then take part in IRC youth program workshops and activities.



REFERRALS

Scan this code to access the community referral form for the IRC in Richmond

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

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We Love Our Local Libraries!

Libraries offer a variety of resources and tools - usually for FREE! Not a member of your local library? Sign up wherever you are today.

Featured Library of the Month: Hull Street



Dolly joined Adriane, Hull Street's Youth Services Librarian, for a fun photo op!

Hull Street Library hosts weekly storytimes for children of all ages, including Book Babies (birth to 17 months) on Tuesdays from 10:30-11:00am, Toddler Time (18-36 months) on Tuesdays from 11:15-11:45am, and Preschool Storytime (ages 3-5) on Wednesdays from 10:30-11am.

All Richmond Public Library locations offer programs and classes, event spaces, free wireless internet access, and public use computers. For upcoming events and additional programs at Hull Street Library, check out the calendar [here](#).

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!



Go Step by Step with Your Child This Month!

Your July 2026 Focus on The Basics Tip



Step by step.

As you sit down to read to your child, try talking through each step of the process. Try something like, "Go pick out a book. Please bring it here. Snuggle up, and open the cover..." and so on. You will be surprised by how narrating your routine will nourish your child's independence and help them feel less overwhelmed with complex tasks.

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

To learn more about how you can *Talk, Sing, Point*, [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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