



Let's Have Fun in the Summer Sun, Richmond!

June 2025

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



Toddler Fair for Petersburg Families

Imagination Library had the great joy of supporting the toddler fair presented by Westview Early Childhood Education Center and the Early Childhood Workgroup. The event provided free books for kids, raffle prizes, a petting zoo, a bouncy house, and balloon animals. The event also included pre-K registration for Westview Developmental screenings, along with access to community resources throughout Petersburg. With the help of Imagination Library staff and on-site volunteers, we were able to register many children to join Petersburg's community of readers.

Expand Your Reading Horizons

Your June 2025 Reading Tip



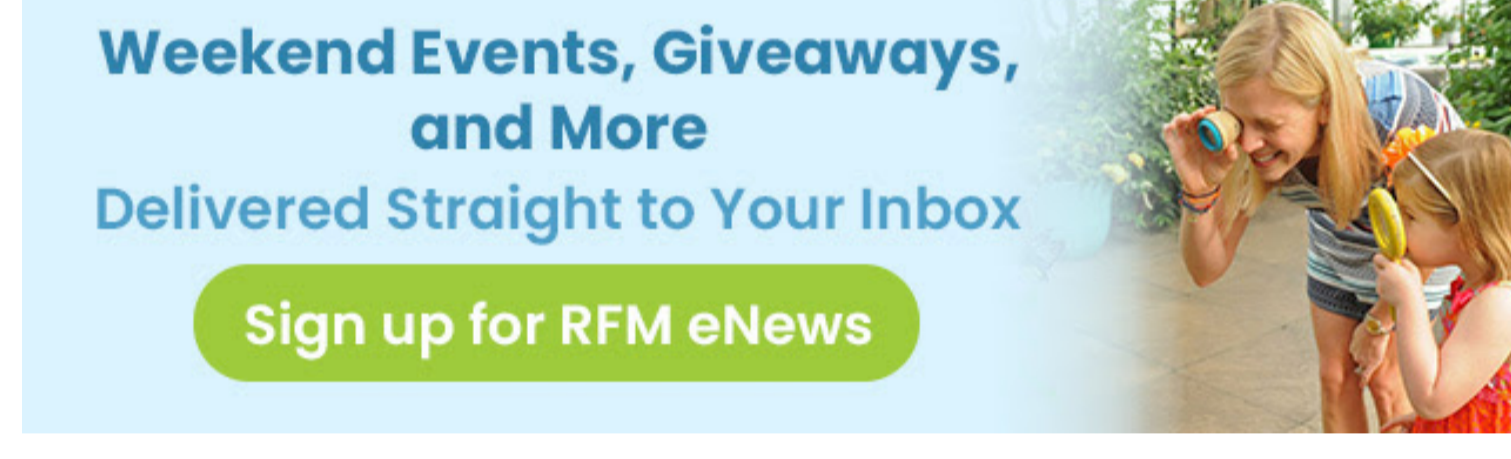
Last month, we shared that picking up stories with similar characters and themes can keep the reading momentum going – but the opposite is true, too! Try expanding your reading horizons by going for something completely different. You can try out a classic, like Jan Brett's *The Mitten* or reach for a debut author for something fresh and new. As your family reading journey progresses, you may find yourself surprised by the range of your child's favorite.

Upcoming Community Partner Events

June 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Story Time, East End Library, 10:00-11:00am, Ages 0 to 5 with an adult, free Preschool Story Time, East End Library, 10:00-11:00am, Ages 3 to 5 with an adult, free Book Babies, Ginter Park Library, 10:30-11:00am, Ages birth to 17 months with their caregiver, free Book Babies, West End Library, 11:00-11:30am, Ages birth to 17 months with their caregiver, free Preschool Story Time, Westover Hills Library, 3:00-3:30pm, Ages 3 to 5 with an adult, free
June 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preschool Story Time, West End Library, 10:00-11:00am, Ages 3 to 5 with an adult, free
June 9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book Babies, East End Library, 10:00-11:00am, Ages birth to 17 months with their caregiver, free Toddler Time, East End Library, 11:00am-12:00pm, Ages 18 to 36 months with their caregiver, free
June 15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Father's Day with the Richmond Flying Squirrels, The Diamond, Gates: 12:30pm, First Pitch: 1:35pm, Kids ages 14 and younger get into every Sunday day game for free
June 26
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giant Chutes and Ladders, East End Library, 1:00-2:00pm, Ages 3 to 7 years old, free

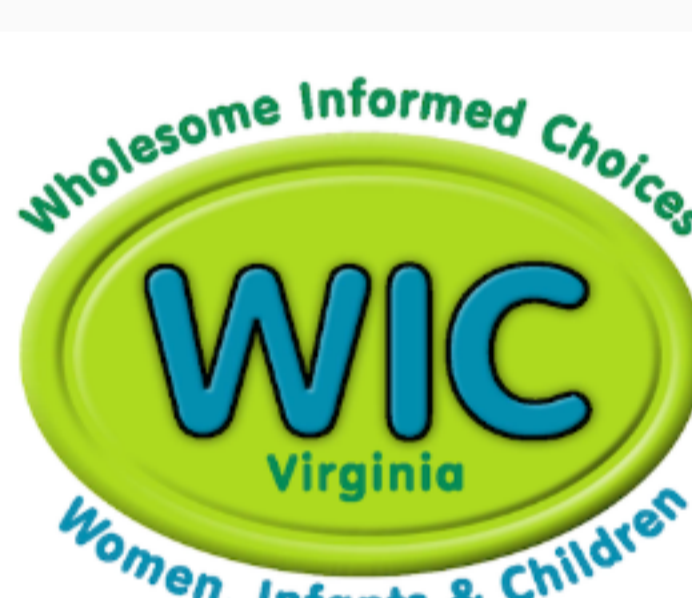
Have a community event you would like us to include? [Email us!](#)

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](#).



Community Partner Spotlight

WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Supplemental Food Program



WIC is a Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children. The purpose of WIC is to provide nutrition education and healthy foods to improve pregnancy outcomes, prevent nutritional deficiencies, support optimal growth and development for pregnant and postpartum women and their children, improve access to healthy foods and enable families to make lifelong healthy eating and lifestyle choices. WIC helps pregnant women, mothers, infants and young children stay healthy and eat right during important times of growth. The WIC approved foods have been specially chosen due to their nutrient content and their ability to help mothers and young children stay healthy and maintain a nutritious diet.

WIC is for all types of families - families with married or single parents and those who are working or not working. Pregnant, breastfeeding, or postpartum women with a child up to 6 months of age can apply for WIC for themselves, along with families who have children under 5 years of age. WIC has higher income guidelines than SNAP or Medicaid so even if families don't qualify for SNAP or Medicaid, they may still qualify for WIC. The WIC Program serves approximately 104,000 participants in Virginia through local health departments and satellite sites. However, we are only meeting 50 percent of our potential clients. That means there are another 104,000 individuals out there who qualify for WIC.

What does WIC offer?

- WIC helps give babies a healthy start. WIC provides prenatal education and healthy foods to women during their pregnancy to start feeding their babies long before they ever deliver.
- Breastfeeding promotion - While breastfeeding is natural and healthy for both mom and baby, it is not always easy. WIC is here to help moms face this challenging time with lactation experts and provide breastfeeding education and support. We have Breastfeeding Peer Counselors on staff to help moms through their breastfeeding journey.
- Nutrition Education – WIC provides quality education and counseling to help the whole family eat better. Nutrition information and individual nutrition assessments helps pregnant and breastfeeding moms learn what to eat and what to feed their growing kids. Health screenings are completed as well to monitor height, weight and iron levels.
- Healthy Foods – an eWIC debit card is provided to each family to receive specific foods that promote good health and growth. The eWIC card provides healthy foods such as milk, cheese, juice, cereal, eggs, peanut butter, dried beans, fruits and vegetables, yogurt, whole grain products, baby foods and supplemental infant formula
- Referrals – WIC goes beyond providing families with food, nutrition education and breastfeeding support. WIC connects families to healthcare and other resources they may need.

For more information on the WIC program visit the Virginia website at: www.vdh.virginia.gov/wic

Or the WIC Federal Government site at: www.fns.usda.gov/wic/

USDA is an equal opportunity employer.

Shop to Support Imagination Library at Ashby!

Imagination Library is Ashby's Tub Charity of the Month!



Ashby is committed to supporting and giving back to the community. When you shop from the Buy-by-the-Pound Bathub, Ashby donates 100% of the sale to a different, local nonprofit each month. Visit Ashby in Carytown today!

Ashby: Style Steals + Sustainable Fashion
Ashby is a locally-owned clothing store in Carytown offering trendy and vintage secondhand fashion, new accessories and locally-sourced gifts. Along with their four sister stores in Carytown and Charlottesville, they are committed to sustainability, affordable fashion, and supporting the community that supports them.

3010 West Cary St, Richmond VA 23221
<https://shopashbyva.com/>

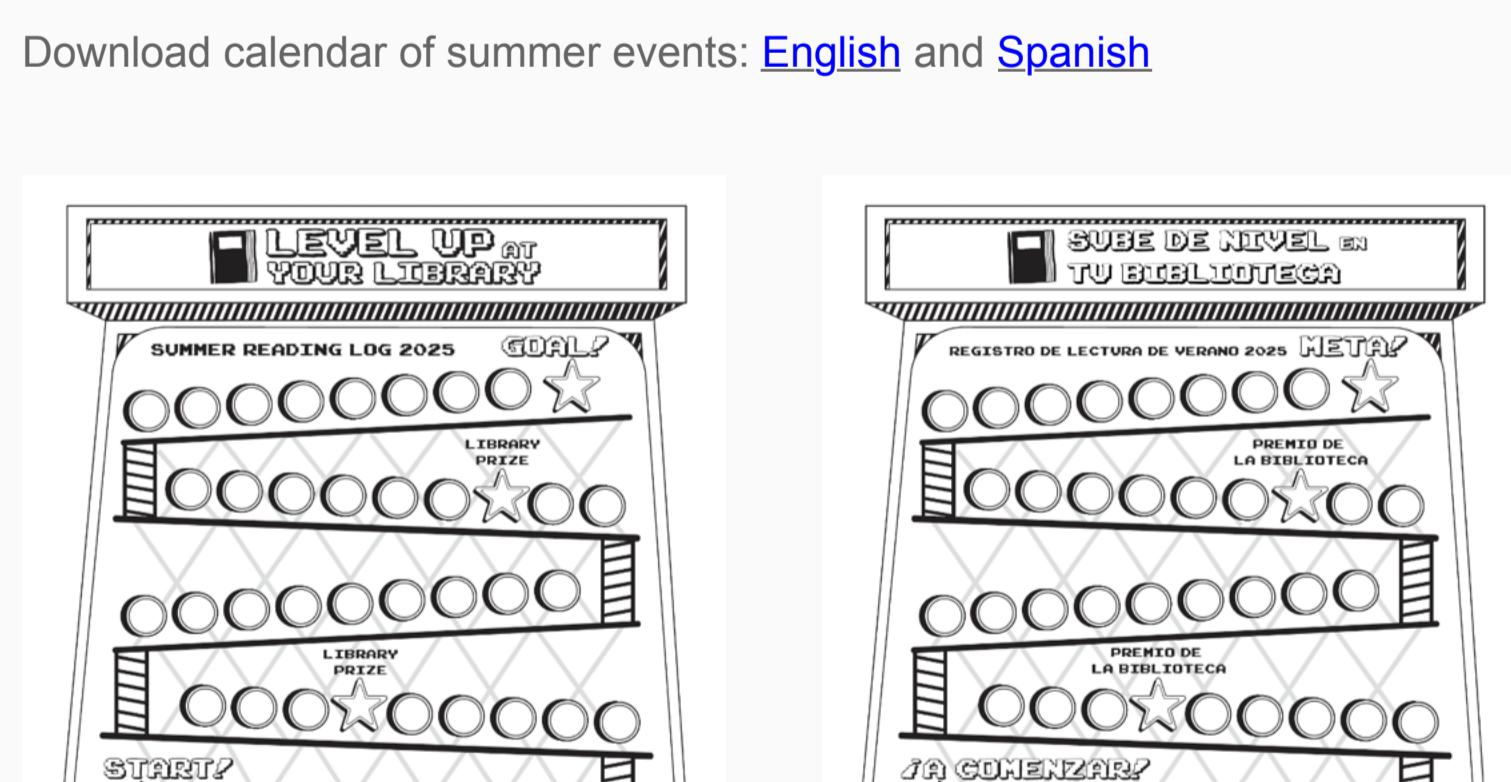
We Love Our Local Libraries!

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

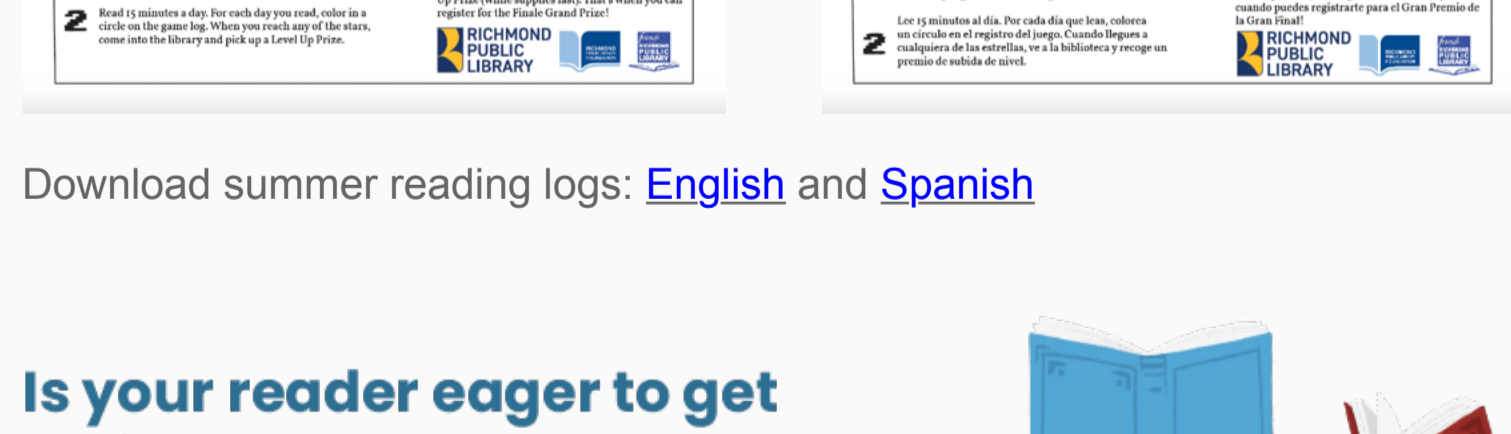
This section of our newsletter shows examples of library offerings, brought to you by [Richmond Public Libraries](#).



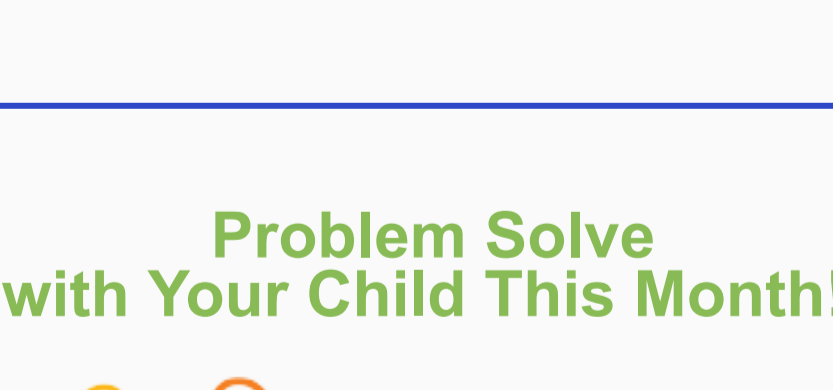
Download calendar of summer events: [English](#) and [Spanish](#)



Download summer reading logs: [English](#) and [Spanish](#)



Problem Solve with Your Child This Month!



Let them problem-solve.

Most books have some kind of conflict. As you read, challenge your child to consider solutions to problems experienced by the characters. You could start by asking your child what they would do in the same situation. Sit back and see if they can think up a solution by themselves. If they get stuck, give them just enough help and encouragement to keep going. Either way, you can talk about your child's solution and how it compares to what the characters do.

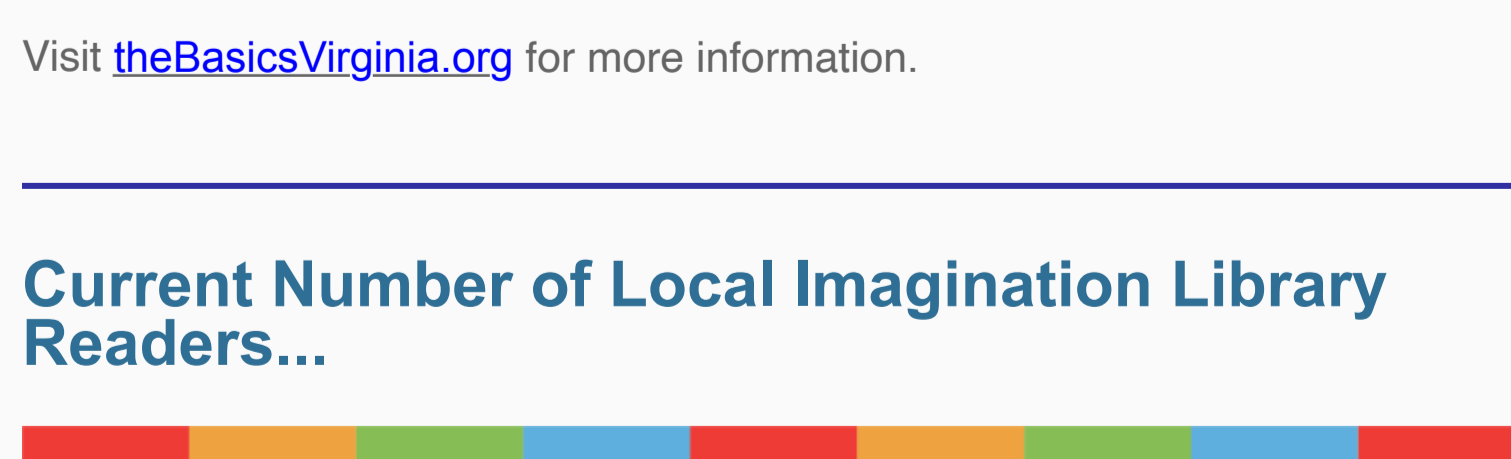
View this principle from how you can [Explore Through Movement and Play](#) click [here](#).

To learn more about how you can [Explore Through Movement and Play](#) click [here](#).

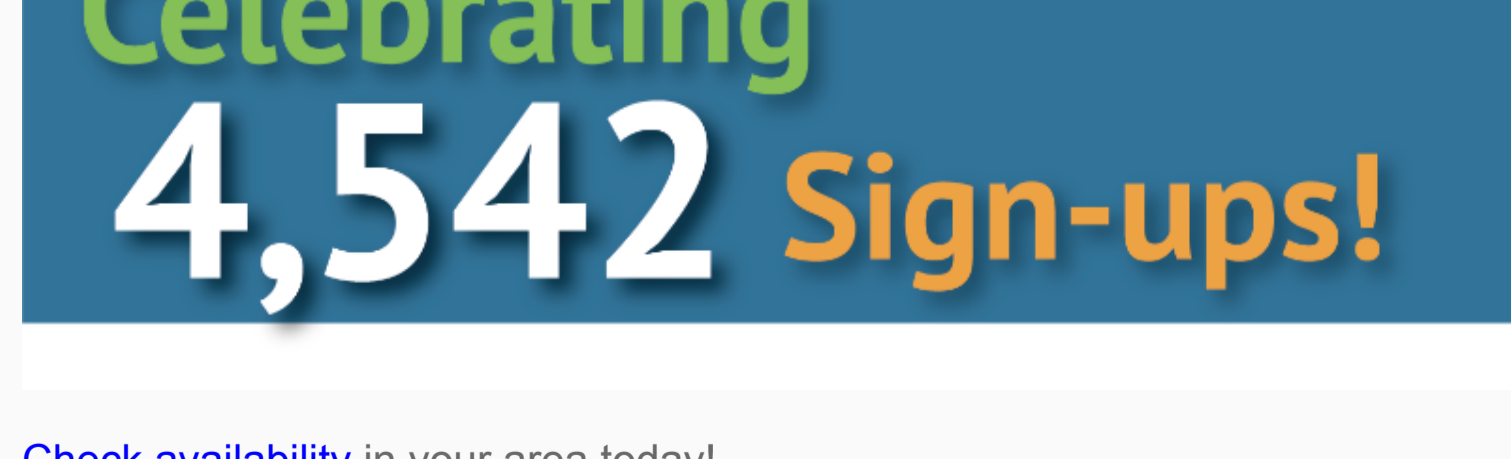
Early childhood organizations all around the Central Virginia have joined The Basics movement, a strategy for whole communities to support vibrant learning and brain development among infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Fun, simple and powerful, starting at birth, The Basics are five science-based parenting 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...



[Check availability](#) in your area today!



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Read to Them
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Richmond, VA 23220-2022

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