



Brought to you by

  
readtothem.org

### Spring Into Stories, Richmond!

March 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

### Special Guest Read Aloud at MLK Jr. Preschool



Former First Lady of Virginia, Suzanne Youngkin, recently joined two classrooms at MLK Jr. Preschool for a special read aloud, celebrating the joy and importance of early literacy. Experiences like these help build strong language skills, spark imagination, and foster a lifelong love of reading. We are grateful to MLK Preschool's dedicated educators and staff for their continued commitment to nurturing young readers and creating meaningful learning moments for their students.

### Early Literacy Talks with Family Lifeline



We were excited to partner with [Family Lifeline](#) to host Early Literacy Talks for parents and caregivers. These engaging sessions shared practical reading tips for babies, along with simple, everyday ways families can build early literacy skills at home. From talking and singing to pointing out words during daily routines, families explored how small moments can make a big difference in a child's development.

At our Richmond session, we were especially thrilled to be joined by Christina Shawn, children's book author, who highlighted how everyday activities help build language and literacy skills from the start.

We're grateful to everyone who joined us and to our partners at Family Lifeline for helping strengthen early literacy in our community!

## Upcoming Community Partner Events

- March 2

**Toeshe Time - Spring on the Farm**

 Maymont

 10-11:30am  18 months-4 years \$
- Baby ArtsPlay

 Belmont Library

 10:30-11:15am  3-36 months
- March 3

**STEAM Team, Splash With Sound for World Hearing Day**

 Corner Park Library

 12-1pm  birth-10 years
- March 5

**Storytime in the Garden**

 Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

 10-11am  all ages \$
- March 7

**Nutzy's Block Party**

 Carmar Park

 10am-1pm  all ages
- March 8

**2026 Richmond Children's Business Fair**

 Dewey (Gothwald) Center

 1-4pm  all ages
- March 12

**Craft Corner: Handprint Butterflies**

 Main Library

 4-5pm  0-10 years
- March 14

**Storytime in the Garden**

 Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

 10-11am  all ages \$
- Storytime at the Memorial**

 Virginia War Memorial

 10:30-11:30am and 11:30am-12:30pm  all ages
- Read to Cello the Dog!**

 Corner Park Library

 10:30-11:30am  5-10 years
- March 15

**Toddler Time - Spring on the Farm**

 Maymont

 10-11am  18 months-4 years \$
- Shaving Cream Coin Hunt**

 Belmont Library

 10:30-11:30am  0-5 years
- March 21

**Kids Spring Workshops**

 Agostini Hall and Gardens

 10am-12pm  all ages \$
- 24th Annual Dog Jog, 5k and Block Party**

 Richmond SPCA

 10am-5pm  all ages \$
- March 28

**Cascanones Hunt**

 Corner Park Library

 All day  0-13 years

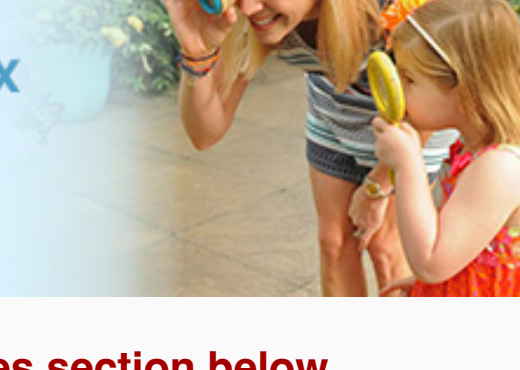
Have a community event you would like us to include? [Email us!](#)

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



Look in the We Love Our Local Libraries section below for events at your local library!

## Community Partner Spotlight



### The Poe Museum

We're excited to highlight one of Richmond's most treasured literary landmarks —The Poe Museum! Dedicated to the life and legacy of Edgar Allan Poe, the museum inspires curiosity, creativity, and a love of storytelling for visitors of all ages.

With engaging exhibits, beautiful gardens, and interactive experiences, families can explore stories together. Creating spaces where children encounter language, art, and history helps nurture the early literacy skills that support lifelong reading success.

Their commitment to making literature fun and accessible makes them a wonderful partner in our shared mission to grow a community of readers. We're grateful for their support in helping families discover the joy and power of books from the very beginning.

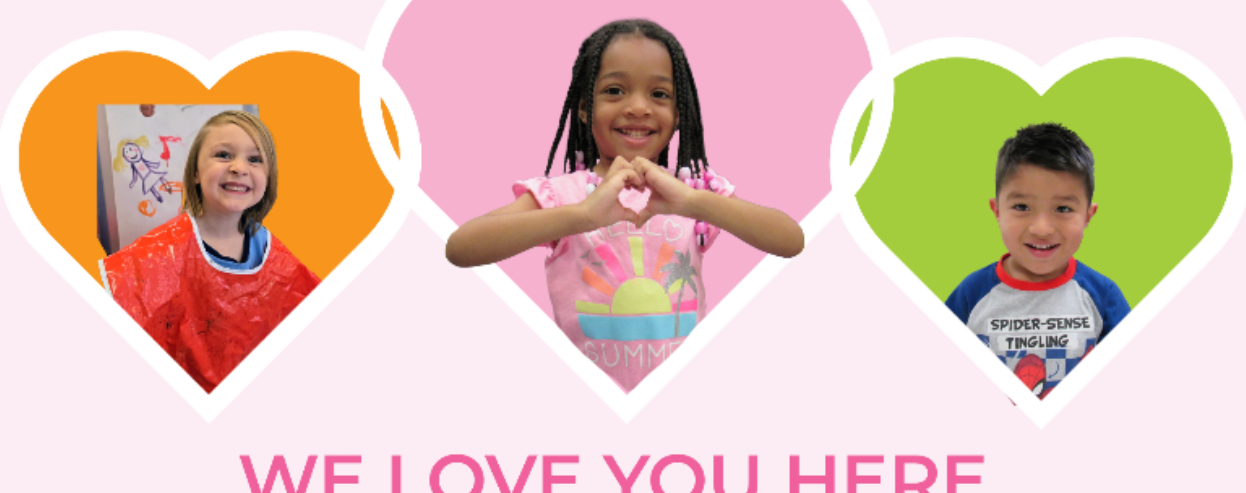
 Learn more and plan your visit: [poemuseum.org](#)

## Preschool and Kindergarten Enrollment is Open

RPS preschool applications and kindergarten enrollment for the 2026-27 school year are now open! Families can find enrollment information, required documents, and the application by visiting [rvaschools.net/preschool](#).



### 2026-27 Preschool Applications



#### WE LOVE YOU HERE

Richmond Public Schools provides a free, high-quality preschool program for eligible 3- and 4-year-olds to help them learn, grow, and thrive in kindergarten.

#### All RPS Preschool Students Have Access to

- Certified teachers
- Social-emotional learning
- Music and art classes

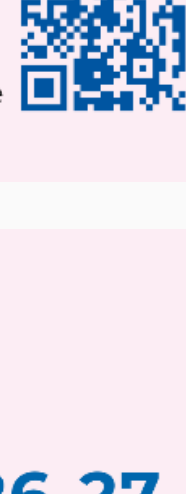
- Special education services
- Research-based curriculum
- Healthy meals

- Transportation
- Health screenings
- Family resources

- School readiness and smooth transition into kindergarten!

Visit [rvaschools.net/preschool](#) for details and to apply

We are here to help!  
Email [preschool@rvaschools.net](mailto:preschool@rvaschools.net) or call 804-254-6180.  
Para asistencia en español, llame al 804-254-6180.



Scan the QR Code to visit our website



### Solicitudes para Preescolar 2026-27



#### NOSOTROS TE AMAMOS AQUÍ

Las Escuelas Públicas de Richmond ofrecen un programa de educación infantil gratuito y de alta calidad para niños y niñas de 3 y 4 años que cumplan los requisitos, ayudándoles a aprender, desarrollarse y prepararse para tener éxito en el kinder.

#### Todos los Estudiantes de Preescolar de RPS Tienen Acceso a

- Maestros Certificados
- Aprendizaje socio-emocional
- Clases de música y arte

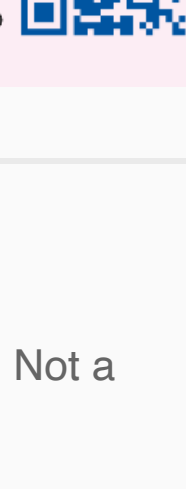
- Servicios de educación especial
- Programa educativo de calidad
- Comidas saludables

- Transporte
- Revisiones de salud
- Recursos para la familia

- ¡Preparación para la escuela y una transición fácil al kinder!

Visita [rvaschools.net/preschool](#) para más información y para aplicar

¡Estamos aquí para ayudarte!  
Correo electrónico [preschool@rvaschools.net](mailto:preschool@rvaschools.net)  
Para asistencia en español, llame al 804-254-6180.



Escanee el código QR para visitar nuestro sitio web

## 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 Library](#).

Dolly's next stop: West End Library! Dolly joined Joan, West End's Youth Services Librarian, for a fun photo op! This vibrant branch is a wonderful place for little readers and their families.

West End Library regularly offers:

- Preschool Storytime - Wednesdays, 10:00-10:30am
- Book Babies - Wednesdays, 11:00-11:30am
- Toddler Time - Tuesdays, 10:00-10:30am and 11:00-11:30am

Families can also enjoy their very cool LEGO table, a favorite spot for creative play and hands-on fun while visiting the library.

All Richmond Public Library locations offer programs and classes, event spaces, free wireless internet access, and public use computers. For upcoming events at West End 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 Beginner Math With Your Child This Month!

Your March 2026 Focus on The Basics Tip

Add and subtract.

If your child is a little older, challenge them to a game of adding or subtracting. For instance, you could lay out a stack of books and take or add to the stack. As you're reading, you can also ask, "How many pages do we have left?" (Your child can, of course, count the remaining pages before answering.) You could then ask, "What if we read one of those pages? How many pages are left now?"

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

To learn more about how you can Count, Group, and Compare, 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

Celebrating

5,266

Sign-ups!



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!"

Copyright © 2026 Read to Them. All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).