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Happy New Year, Richmond!

January 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

Holiday Fun with Legendary Santa



Earlier in the month, the Imagination Library team had a wonderful time joining Legendary Santa at the Children's Museum of Richmond! We loved helping families learn more about early literacy, share the joy of reading, and register little ones to receive books each month. Thank you to everyone who stopped by - your excitement made this season even more magical.

Upcoming Community Partner Events

- January 2nd**
[Winter Puppetfest](#), Artspace, 10:30am-Jan 3rd at 2pm (best for ages 3 and up) \$
- January 5th**
[Storytime @ SCRAP Creative Reuse](#), 10-11am (best for ages 1-5) You can register for the event [here](#).
[Bilingual Preschool Storytime/Hora de cuentos bilingüe para niños en edad preescolar](#), Broad Rock Library, 5:30-6pm (birth-5 years)
- January 7th**
[Bilingual Book Babies/Bebés Bilingües](#), Broad Rock Library, 10-10:30am (birth-18 months)
- January 8th**
[STEAM Team: Static-Charged Can Race](#), Ginter Park Library, 12-1pm (birth-10 years)
[Craft Corner: Chameleon Blow Art](#), Main Library, 4-5pm (birth-5 years)
- January 9th**
[Tunes & Toons: "The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That!"](#), Main Library, 10-11am (birth-5 years)
- January 10th**
[Sensory Sprouts](#), Main Library, 10-11:30am (best for ages 7 months-3 years)
[Read to Callie the Dog](#), Ginter Park Library, 10:30-11:30am (5-10 years)
- January 12th**
[Lego Club](#), Belmont Library, all day (all ages)
[Play Connections](#), Main Library, 10-11:15am (birth-5 years)
- January 15th**
[Make-Your-Own Hat Workshop](#), Main Library, 4:30-5:30pm (birth-10 years)
- January 16th**
[Baby ArtsPlay!](#) Main Library, 10:30-11am (3-36 months)
[Snow Dough Play for Toddlers & Presk](#), Belmont Library, 10:30-11:15am (best for 18 months-4 years)
[Story & Craft](#), Children's Museum of Richmond Downtown, 3:15pm - March 22nd at 4:15pm, (3-8 years)
- January 20th**
[Penguin Pebbles](#), Ginter Park Library, 12-1pm (birth-10 years)
- January 22nd**
[Craft Corner: Watercolor Sticker Resist Art Print](#), Main Library, 4-5pm (birth-10 years)
- January 26th**
[Pajama Storytime](#), Westover Hills Library, 7-7:30pm (all ages)
- January 31st**
[Lights Up!](#) Perkinson Center for the Arts and Education, 10am-12:30pm (all ages)

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

Notice Letters

Your January 2026 Reading Tip



As you and your child are reading together, try pointing out different letters and numbers within the story. You could even turn this into a challenge. For instance, "Why don't we try to find all the A's on this page. Next time, we can try to find all the B's." Soon enough, your child will be able to take individual letters, string them together, and identify whole words. You would be surprised how each of these small steps are so vital on your child's literacy journey!

Community Partner Spotlight



The Mercy Mall of Virginia

The Mercy Mall of Virginia inspires hope by providing essential items to individuals and families overcoming the obstacles to home and life stability. They collect and distribute clothing, household items, baby care, toiletries, cleaning supplies and more. Mercy Mall of Virginia relies on donations and volunteers to assist thousands of families each year!

Dwell Boutique & Coffee Bar was created as an extension of Mercy Mall's mission—a place where community, generosity, and purpose come together. Every purchase and cup of coffee helps support families experiencing crises. Operated on a suggested donation basis, Dwell also offers its cozy space for private event rentals that further sustain the mission.

Open Monday–Thursday, 10 AM–2 PM
Located at 7519 Whitepine Road
North Chesterfield, VA, 23237.

Learn more on Mercy Mall of Virginia's website: <https://mercyallva.org/>

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](#).

Enjoy These Events at the Library!



Dolly's on the move! Dolly had a wonderful visit to the Main Library, where she joined Katie, the Early Literacy Coordinator, for a fun photo op! Katie plays a key role in helping families discover age-appropriate books, build early reading habits, and make literacy playful and engaging. We're grateful for her partnership and all she does to support young readers in our community.

If you're searching for the perfect books to support your child's reading journey, check out RPL's [Bookologist](#) service and [Storytime at Home](#) blog series for expert recommendations. All Richmond Public Library locations offer programs and classes, event spaces, free wireless internet access, and public use computers. For upcoming events at the Main Library, check out their 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!

Model Reading for Your Child This Month!

Your January 2026 Focus on The Basics Tip



Be a role model.

You are your child's first teacher - meaning your child learns how to act and learns about the world, at large, by watching you. Beyond modeling the kind of values you want to pass down to them, modeling a positive relationship with reading and learning is so valuable. You have the power to establish a life-long love of stories, simply by picking up a book and sharing it with your child.

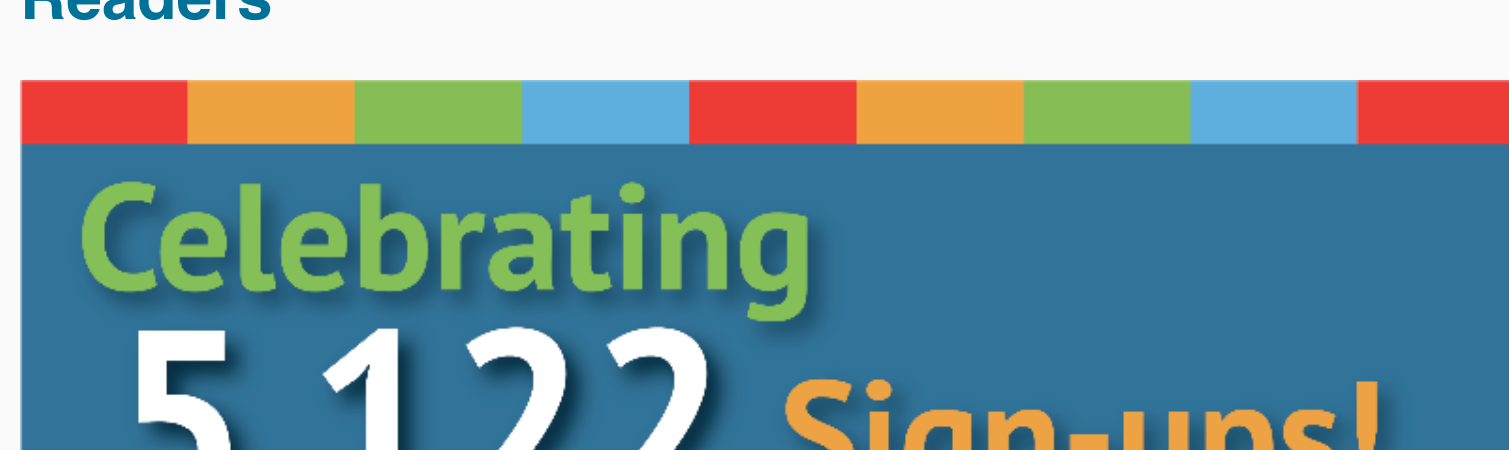
Visit this principle from [The Basics here](#).

To learn more about how you can **Maximize Love, Manage Stress**, 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



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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