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A Summer Full of Stories!

July 2026

Welcome Amelia, South Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Dinwiddie, 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](#).

Community Partner Spotlight



The Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC), is Virginia's federally funded Parent Information and Training Center (PTI). Since 1978, PEATC has empowered families of children with disabilities by providing resources and tools to support informed decision-making, increased knowledge, and empowerment of families, youth and professionals.

PEATC helps families with children with disabilities (birth to age 26) understand their rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and other disability laws. Their free, confidential services include support in over 300 languages, with bilingual Spanish-speaking staff available. They provide resources and one-on-one assistance to help families navigate the special education and disability services systems.

PEATC collaborates with numerous state and local partners, including school divisions, to strengthen family engagement, address concerns, and promote self-advocacy skills for students with disabilities. Their website features over 250 fact sheets and resources on topics like special education, early childhood, transition services, bullying prevention, Medicaid waivers, and employment, including content specifically for military and Spanish-speaking families.

PEATC offers a wide range of free virtual and in-person trainings for families and professionals. Their events are listed on our website at www.peatc.org, where you can also subscribe to our bi-weekly e-newsletter that highlights resources and upcoming trainings.

Upcoming Community Partner Events

Amelia

July 10
[Children's Storytime](#)
James L. Hamner Library
10-11am

July 17
[Children's Storytime](#)
James L. Hamner Library
10-11am

July 24
[Children's Storytime](#)
James L. Hamner Library
10-11am

July 31
[Children's Storytime](#)
James L. Hamner Library
10-11am

South Chesterfield

July 1
[Dinosaur Discovery](#)
Ettrick-Matoaca Library
10-10:45am 3-5 years

July 2
[Baby Storytime](#)
Ettrick-Matoaca Library
10-10:30am birth-2 years

July 6
[Pre-K Storytime](#)
Ettrick-Matoaca Library
10-11am 3-5 years

July 7
[Pre-K Storytime](#)
Enon Library
10:30-11am 3-5 years

July 21
[Pre-K Storytime](#)
Enon Library
10:30-11am 3-5 years

[My First School Bus](#)
Ettrick-Matoaca Library
5:30-6:30pm Pre-k and Kindergarten students

July 31
[My First School Bus](#)
Enon Library
9:30-10:30am Pre-k and Kindergarten students

Colonial Heights

July 4
[Fireworks Show](#)
Southgate Square & Walmart area
9:15pm all ages

July 6
[Sleepy Cup Coalition](#)
Colonial Heights Library
11am-12pm 1 month-5 years

July 9
[Playground Pop Up](#)
White Bank Park Pavilion #2
10am-12pm all ages

July 7, 14, 21, 28
[Family Storytime](#)
Colonial Heights Library
10:30-11:30am 3-5 years

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
[Baby Storytime](#)
Colonial Heights Library
9:30-10:30am birth-2 years

Dinwiddie

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
[Baby & Me](#)
Dinwiddie Library
10-10:30am birth-2 years

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
[Storytime](#)
Dinwiddie Library
10:30-11am babies & toddlers

Prince George

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
[Baby & Me](#)
Prince George Library
10-10:30am birth-2 years

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
[Storytime](#)
Prince George Library
10:30-11am babies & toddlers

Sussex

June 29
[Celebrate VAS250](#)
Agnes Taylor Gray Library
9am-5pm all ages

June 30
[Celebrate VAS250](#)
Trotter Memorial Library
10am-5pm all ages

July 11 & 12
[3rd Annual Sunflower Festival](#)
Wolosuk Farms
11am-6pm all ages



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 Brewe 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

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.

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 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, 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!"

