



Books in Bloom, Petersburg!

April 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

Sacred Heart Center Early Literacy Talk



We recently had the opportunity to host an early literacy talk at the Sacred Heart Center for Spanish speaking families in our community. Families gathered to learn simple ways to build literacy skills during everyday routines - from sharing stories together to turning daily activities into language-rich moments.

We were grateful to be joined by children's book author Christina Shawn, who shared engaging, easy to implement reading strategies families can use right away. A special thank you to Lance, Youth Programs Coordinator at the Sacred Heart Center, for providing translation and helping ensure every family could fully participate in the conversation.

The Sacred Heart Center provides education, family support, and development programs that empower Latino families in the Richmond region. To learn more about the work they do, visit their [website](#).

Community Partner Spotlight



Since 1978, Assisting Families of Inmates (AFOI) has served families of the incarcerated with evidence-based programs providing meaningful visitation, family support and children's services.

AFOI's many programs are designed to help families cope with the incarceration of a loved one and better prepare for release and reunification. Through our Milk and Cookies (MAC) Children's Program and Family Support and Visitation Services, AFOI strives to prevent the breakdown of relationships among incarcerated individuals and their families by providing regular visitation opportunities, emergency assistance, community service referrals and educational services.

AFOI is one of only a handful of such organizations to serve families of the incarcerated throughout Virginia and across the United States. To learn more about AFOI, please visit [AFOI.org](#) or call 804-643-2401.



We Love Our Local Libraries!

Libraries offer a variety of resources and tools - usually for FREE!

Not a member of [Petersburg Public Library](#)? Sign up 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!



Explore Sensory Play With Your Child this Month!

Your April 2026 Focus on The Basics Tip



Five senses.

As you're selecting a book to read with your child, try to provide books with different shapes, textures, and colors. Imagination Library offers a vibrant variety of titles-- and your local library is a cornucopia of further options. Your child will love to examine the soft and hardbacks, the different illustration types, and the numerous smells and textures that come with reading a book. You might be surprised by what interests them the most.

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

To learn more about how you can *Explore Through Movement and Play*, [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.

To check the availability of Imagination Library in your area, [click here](#).

