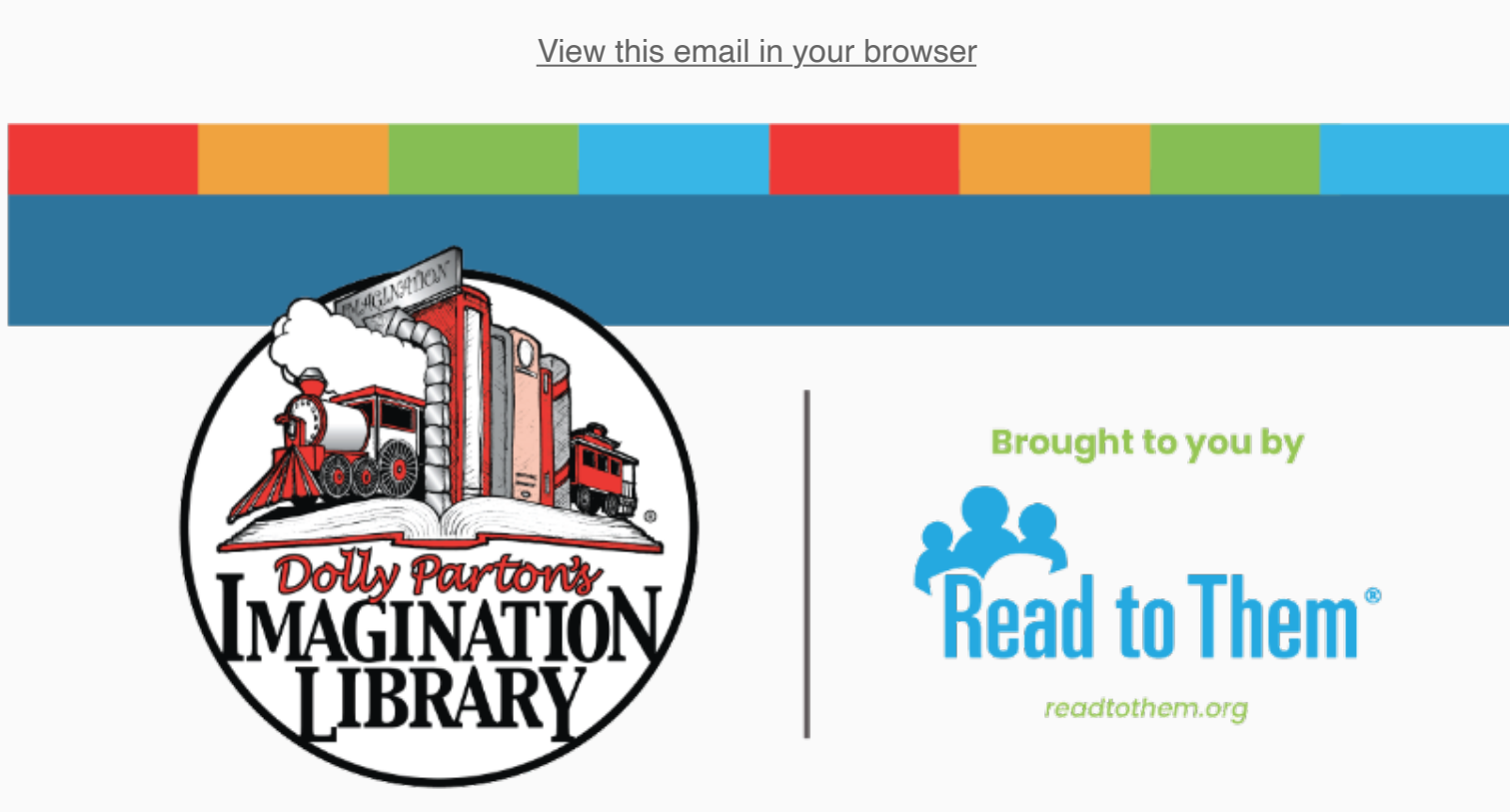




Happy Back to School, Petersburg!

September 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



Imagination Library Joins RPS for Preschool Orientations

In the lead up to the new school year, Imagination Library had the opportunity to join two Richmond preschools at their orientations. Summer Hill Preschool and Mary Scott Preschool welcomed us with such generosity — and we even signed up over 120 kids for Imagination Library while there! We cannot thank Principals Lee Doxey (Summer Hill) and Lisa Hicks (Mary Scott) for having us, and wish all RPS schools a happy start to the school year.

If you would like Imagination Library to come to your child care center, daycare, or preschool to register children with the program or to talk about the magic of early childhood literacy, please reach out to Kimberly Fehrs at kimberly.fehrs@readtothem.org.

Give Nonfiction a Try!

Your September 2025 Reading Tip



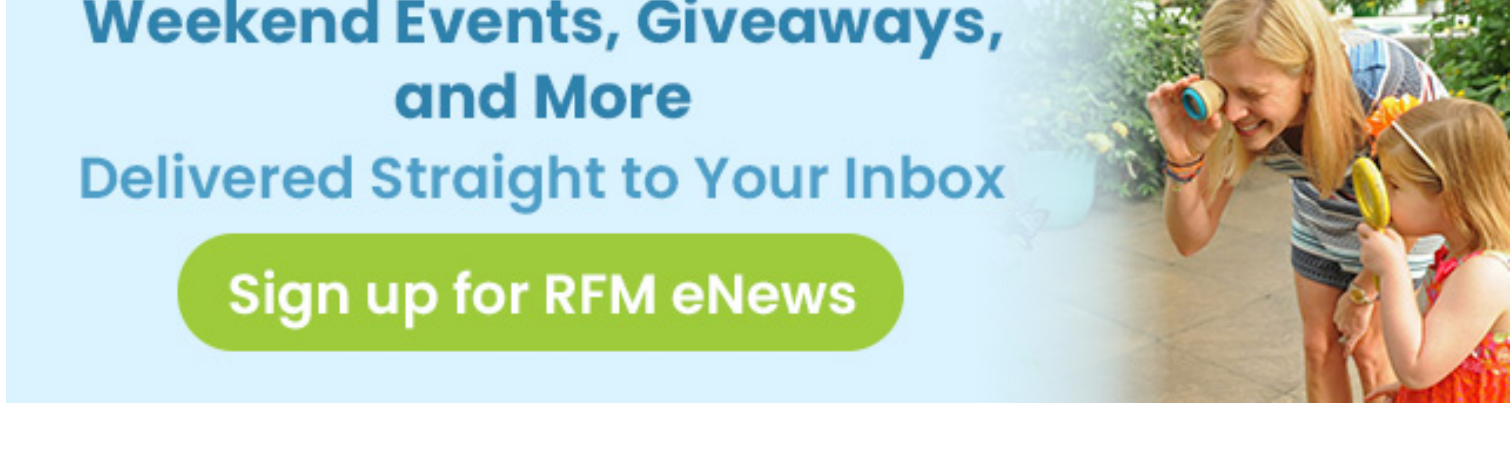
One way to expand your reading horizons is to try a nonfiction book about a topic from your favorite book. You could dive into any number of nonfiction picture books — and read aloud from chapter books if your young scholar is a bit older—about an infinite variety of topics. Everything from biographies and history, to science and social issues are at your disposal, just waiting for you to dive in!

Upcoming Community Partner Events

Look in the [We Love Our Local Libraries](#) section below for events at your local library!

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

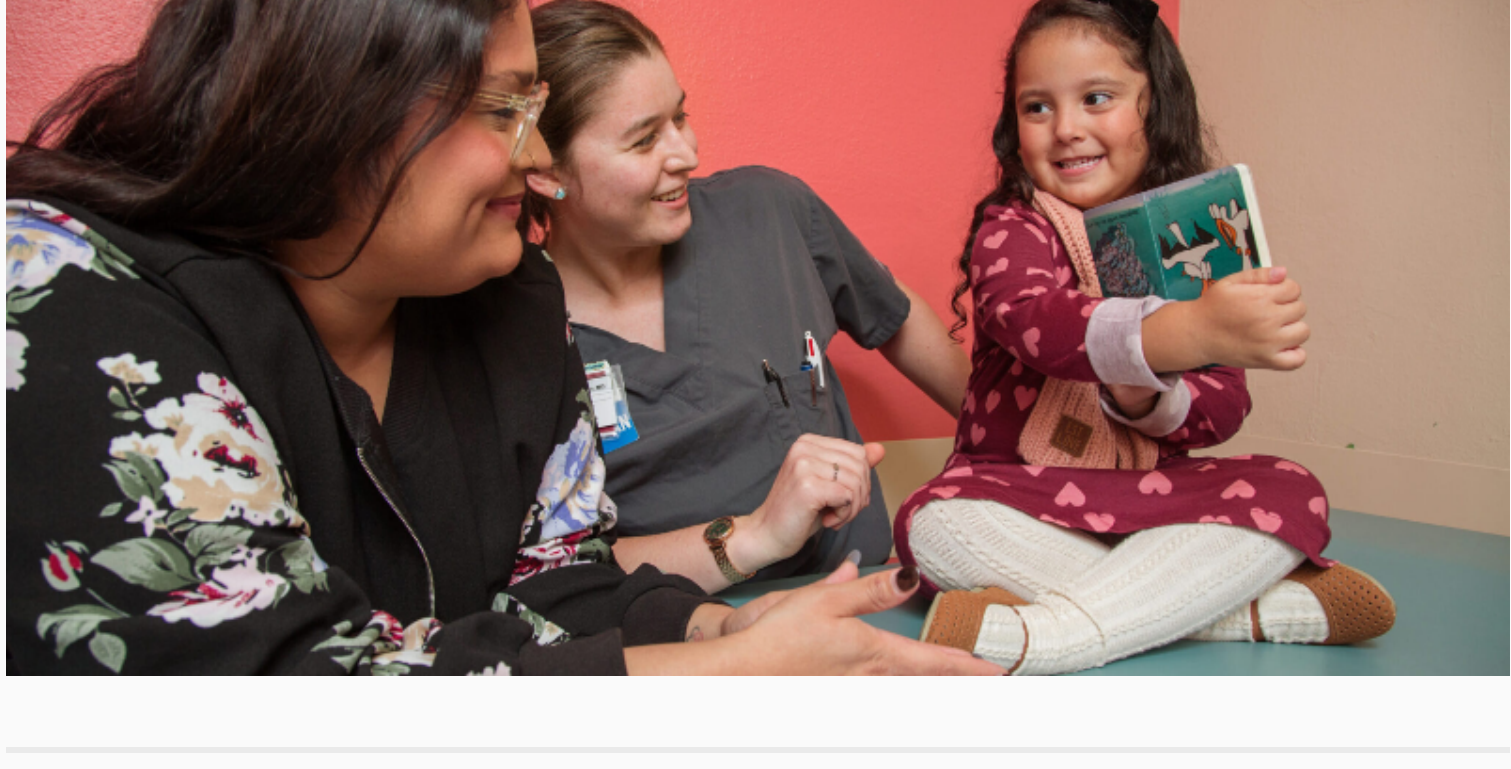
Reach Out and Read



The [Reach Out and Read](#) model is a critical tool to support both clinicians and families during the unique touchpoint of primary care visits. In the early years of life, children and their adult caregivers are supported early and often at these visits. At these touchpoints, the intervention is a critical tool for primary care clinicians and a resource for families to strengthen healthy routines and relationships. Studies show that social drivers, including presence of safe and secure nurturing relationships, have a substantial impact on health, accounting for 80% of an individual's overall health. Reach Out and Read is an evidence-based approach designed to address this critical component of health by supporting social drivers. As a proven model, Reach Out and Read should be widely implemented as a standard best practice of primary care for children.

Research shows that lifelong health is connected to and positively correlated with the development of literacy skills. We also know that the development of literacy skills relies on emotional connections, interactive exchanges, and positive childhood experiences. Reach Out and Read supports both the development of literacy skills through discussion of age-appropriate literacy milestones and the important underlying emotional connections by fostering crucial moments together. Reach Out and Read is a preventative health intervention that supports overall healthy development.

Early experiences significantly shape a child's brain development and overall health, including mental health and social and emotional development. Research demonstrates that Reach Out and Read supports all dimensions of development, and that time spent in safe, stable, nurturing relationships with books and stories is a type of preventive "biobiotherapy" that is extremely effective in supporting strong mental health and resilience in children and their caregivers alike. This approach helps foster positive and meaningful interactions between children and their caretakers, which are essential for healthy social and emotional development. Reach Out and Read supports families in creating everyday moments where children and their caregivers can share laughter, playfulness, bonding, and create lasting memories. These experiences are more than memories; they form a fundamental foundation for cognitive, social, and emotional well-being.



THE WELL FEST

**Rooted in Richmond:
Celebrating Local, Reaching Global**

SEPT. 4TH
Rooted: A Taste of Culture
through Culinary Art

SEPT. 5TH
A Conversation + Social

SEPT. 6TH
THE WELL Fest:
Well-being and Music for the People

Hosted by THE WELL COLLECTIVE

The WELL Fest

Curated by [The Well Collective](#), THE WELL Fest brings together the best of Richmond's arts, culture and music scene offering you a full day to move, breathe, sit, shop, engage and restore for your whole well-being.

What to Expect:

- A high-energy **Nourish Bar** with kombucha, cold-pressed juices, coffee & teas
- **Live performances** and sound experiences to elevate your vibe
- **Movement classes** led by local instructors
- **Richmond ARTS Walk** full of artists and the creation of a public mural curated by The ART SEEN
- A **Wellness Market** featuring hand-picked vendors, artisans & creators
- **Giveaways, healing stations, and community leader-led conversations**

Whether you're a seasoned lover or just getting started on your journey, THE WELL Fest is your invitation to **reconnect, refuel and re-imagine—**with yourself and the people around you!

Check out the other events taking place during the 3-Day Event:

- **Thursday, September 4, 6:00 p to 9:00 p**, Rooted: A Taste of Culture through Jazz and Culinary Art
Tickets: <https://rootedwiththewellcollective.eventbrite.com>
- **Friday, September 5, 6:00 p to 9:00 p**, Rooted in Richmond: A Conversation + Social to Launch THE WELL Fest
- **Saturday, September 6, 10:00 a to 12:00 p**, Morning Movement + Wellness Session, Requires additional ticket

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 the [Petersburg Public Library](#).

Petersburg Public Library

YOUTH PROGRAMS

AGE 5+

WE'LL BE BACK IN

SEPTEMBER

FOR

Story Time
0-4yrs
MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS
11 - 11:30 AM

My Feel's "R" Real
3-5yrs
2ND AND 4TH TUESDAYS
2 - 3 PM

Be Artistic!
children
1ST AND 3RD TUESDAYS
10 AM - 3 PM

Sensory Shop **NEW**
early/grade
THURSDAYS
12 - 1 PM

Let's Create
4-12yrs
THURSDAYS
2 - 3 PM

201 W. Washington St. Petersburg VA 23803 - (804) 733-2387 - ppls.org

Have a GREAT summer with the Petersburg Public Library!

[Click here](#) to find a complete list of upcoming events hosted by our friends at Petersburg Public Libraries!

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!

FOOD, SHOES & CLOTHING

GIVEAWAY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

3:00 - 7:00PM

Virginia Resource Center | 22 West Washington | Petersburg
WWW.KATIESSOLES.ORG

FOOD, DIAPERS, GENTLY USED CLOTHES & SHOES FOR ALL AGES

Sing With Your Child This Month!



Sing, sing, sing!

Reading together can be a surprising way to sing songs with your child. There are plenty of nursery rhymes that present the opportunity to break into song, such as the Itzy Bity Spider, Wheels on the Bus, and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star. Don't let yourself be limited by the classics, though; you can delve into new books in-verse or make up new songs of your own. Your toddler may also enjoy songs that include rhyming sounds or hand motions.

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.

As Dolly says, "You can never get enough books into the hands of enough children!"



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