



Sunny Days & Storytime, Petersburg!
May 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

Early Literacy Talk with Urban Baby Beginnings



This month, we partnered with Urban Baby Beginnings at their Petersburg Office for an inspiring early literacy talk led by children's author Christina Shawn. Families learned simple, meaningful ways to nurture development in infancy through everyday moments like, talking, reading, and play.

Urban Baby Beginnings supports families in Petersburg and Richmond with essential items like diapers, formula, and clothing, while also connecting parents to resources that help their children thrive. To learn more about their impact, visit [urbanbabybeginnings.org](#).

Community Partner Spotlight



Commonwealth Catholic Charities (CCC) has served individuals and families for more than a century, providing compassionate, high-quality human services across Central, Eastern, and Southwest Virginia. CCC is committed to nurturing children and families, welcoming new Americans, and housing the most vulnerable to ensure that every person can look forward to a brighter future.

Upcoming Community Partner Events



Ensuring safety around water is essential for preventing drowning and fostering confidence in and around aquatic environments. Safety Around Water Week provides **FREE** swim lessons and water safety instruction through YMCA swimming lessons.

- May 9 - May 10
[Swim Lessons: Parent & Child](#)
Petersburg YMCA
9-9:30am 6 months-3 years
- [Swim Lessons: Preschool](#)
Petersburg YMCA
12:30-1pm 3-5 years
- May 11 - May 14
[Swim Lessons: Parent & Child](#)
Petersburg YMCA
5:30-6pm 6 months-3 years
- [Swim Lessons: Preschool](#)
Petersburg YMCA
5-5:30pm 3-5 years
- [Swim Lessons: Preschool](#)
Petersburg YMCA
6-6:30pm 3-5 years
- May 15
[Water Safety Week Poolcoza Pool Party](#)
Petersburg YMCA
6-8pm all ages



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!

Ask Your Child Questions this Month!

Your May 2026 Focus on The Basics Tip



Ask questions that don't have "yes" or "no" answers.

If you're reading with an older child, try to ask them questions that don't have simple "yes" or "no" answers. This can include things like, "What do you think will happen next in the story?" Or "How do you think the character will react to X?" You don't need to move to respond right away. Give them a few seconds to think about their response, and ask a follow up question if they need extra coaxing.

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

To learn more about how you can *Read and Discuss Stories*, [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](#).

