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Sunny Days & Storytime, Richmond!

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

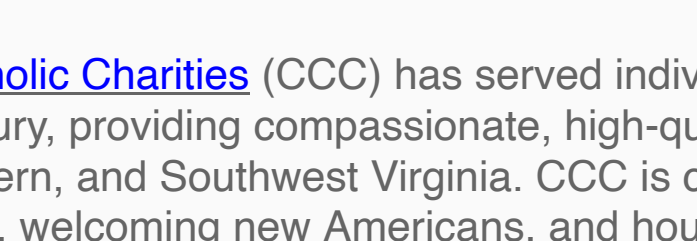
Early Literacy Talk with Urban Baby Beginnings



This month, we partnered with Urban Baby Beginnings at their Petersburg office for an inspiring early literacy talk led by children's author Christina Shaw. 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

- May 1**
Baby ArtsPlay
East End Library
10:30-11am 3 months-3 years
- May 2**
Nature BeeFest: Scavenger Hunt
Ginter Park Library
All day birth-10 years
- May 5**
Problem Solvers: STEM Storytime
Main Library
3:30-4:15pm 3-5 years
- May 6**
Mother's Day Card Making
Ginter Park Library
All day birth-10 years
- May 8**
Gently Used Toy Swap
Belmont Library
11am-12pm ages 6 and up
- May 14**
Craft Corner: Paper Flower Collages
Main Library
4-5pm birth-10 years
- May 15-17**
Domination Energy Riverrock
Tredgier Riverfront
Friday 5pm-Sunday 5pm all ages
- May 16**
ASK OK & Fun Walk
Carmax Park
10:30am all ages
- May 18**
Mex Maker Mondays
Main Library
10-11am birth-10 years
- May 23**
Sensory Scrubs
East End Library
10-11:30am birth-5 years
- May 30**
Hobby Hike on the Virginia Capital Trail
Great Shiplock Park
9am-12pm all ages

The Bear-y Best Start

EMPOWERING NEW AND EXPECTANT PARENTS
FREE Community Resource Fair

Join us for a FREE day of support, learning, and fun to help families get the **bear-y best start** possible!

What's Happening

- Baby essentials, toy giveaways, and a FREE raffle (winners must be present at the time of drawing)
- Expert talks on newborn care and parenting
- Meet local health care professionals
- Free car safety seat checks
- Health screenings
- And so much more—community support and resources for growing families

Saturday, May 30, 2026
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Richmond Raceway, 600 E Laburnum Ave., Richmond, VA 23222

Bear-y Fuel Take home a teddy, while supplies last!

To register, please use this [Registration Link](#) Or Scan QR code

El inicio más Fabul-Oso

APOYAMOS A FAMILIAS NUEVAS Y EN CRECIMIENTO
Feria comunitaria con recursos GRATUITOS

Acompáñanos gratuitamente a un día de actividades, aprendizaje y diversión para dar un **fabul-Oso** comienzo a esta nueva etapa.

¿Qué habrá?

- Artículos esenciales para bebés, regalos curiosos y un sorteo GRATUITO (los ganadores deben estar presentes en el momento del sorteo)
- Charlas con expertos sobre el cuidado y la crianza del recién nacido
- Encuentros con profesionales de la salud locales
- Revisión gratuita de asientos de seguridad para el auto
- Revisores médicos
- ¡Y más mucho más! Además de recursos útiles y apoyo para familias en crecimiento

Sábado, 30 de mayo de 2026
De 10 de la mañana a 3 de la tarde
Richmond Raceway, 600 E Laburnum Ave., Richmond, VA 23222

Llévese un Fabul-Oso de peluche hasta agotar existencias

Para participar, escanee el código QR

SAFETY AROUND WATER WEEK

MAY 9-15
Let's Make RVA Safe Around Water

Teaching Kids to be Safe Around Water

With water everywhere across our region, the Y helps our community find more confidence and less fear in the water, because families and children need to know how to stay safe in and around water.

Safety Around Water Week is a FREE introductory swim program for youth and adults currently not enrolled in formal swim lessons.

SERVES

- 6 months old-adults
- Targets inexperienced swimmers
- Open to the community

LOCATIONS

Offered at 13 Y locations

HOURS

Swim Lessons
Saturday-Sunday 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Monday-Thursday: 5:30-8 p.m.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER

LIMITED SPACES ARE AVAILABLE. REGISTER TODAY! Let's Make RVA Safe Around Water Safety journey

SEMANA DE LA SEGURIDAD EN EL AGUA

DEL 9 AL 15 DE MAYO
Hagamos la Richmond, Virginia, un lugar seguro en el agua.

En vista de que el agua es un recurso abundante en nuestra región, la YMCA ayuda a nuestra comunidad a sentirse más segura y confiada en el agua, ya que las familias y los niños necesitan saber cómo mantenerse seguros en el agua y en torno a ella.

La Semana de la Seguridad en el Agua es un programa gratuito de iniciación a la natación dirigido a jóvenes y adultos que actualmente no estén matriculados en clases de natación formales.

PÚBLICO

- Desde bebés de 6 meses hasta adultos
- Nadadores inexpertos
- Abierto a la comunidad

LUGARES

Disponible en 13 centros de Y

HORARIOS

Clases de natación
Sábados y domingos de 9:00 a.m. a 1:30 p.m.,
de lunes a jueves de 5:30 p.m. a 8:00 p.m.

PARA REGISTRARSE, ESCANEE EL CÓDIGO QR

LOS CUPOS SON LIMITADOS. ¡REGISTRARSE HOY MISMO!
This week it's yours to be family & dive the summer pool so it's come back to us quickly at the pool

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 650 spots all over RVA, including [these locations](#).

Weekend Events, Giveaways, and More

Delivered Straight to Your Inbox

[Sign up for RFM eNews](#)

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

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](#).

Featured Library of the Month: Ginter Park Library



Dolly joined Rachel, Ginter Park's Youth Services Librarian, for a fun photo op!

Ginter Park Library hosts weekly storytimes for children of all ages, including Book Babies (birth to 17 months) on Wednesdays from 10:30-11:00am, Toddler Time (18-36 months) on Thursdays from 11:00-11:30am, and Preschool Storytime (ages 3-5) on Tuesdays from 10:30-11:00am.

All Richmond Public Library locations offer programs and classes, event spaces, free wireless internet access, and public use computers. For upcoming events and additional programs at Ginter Park Library, check out the calendar [here](#).

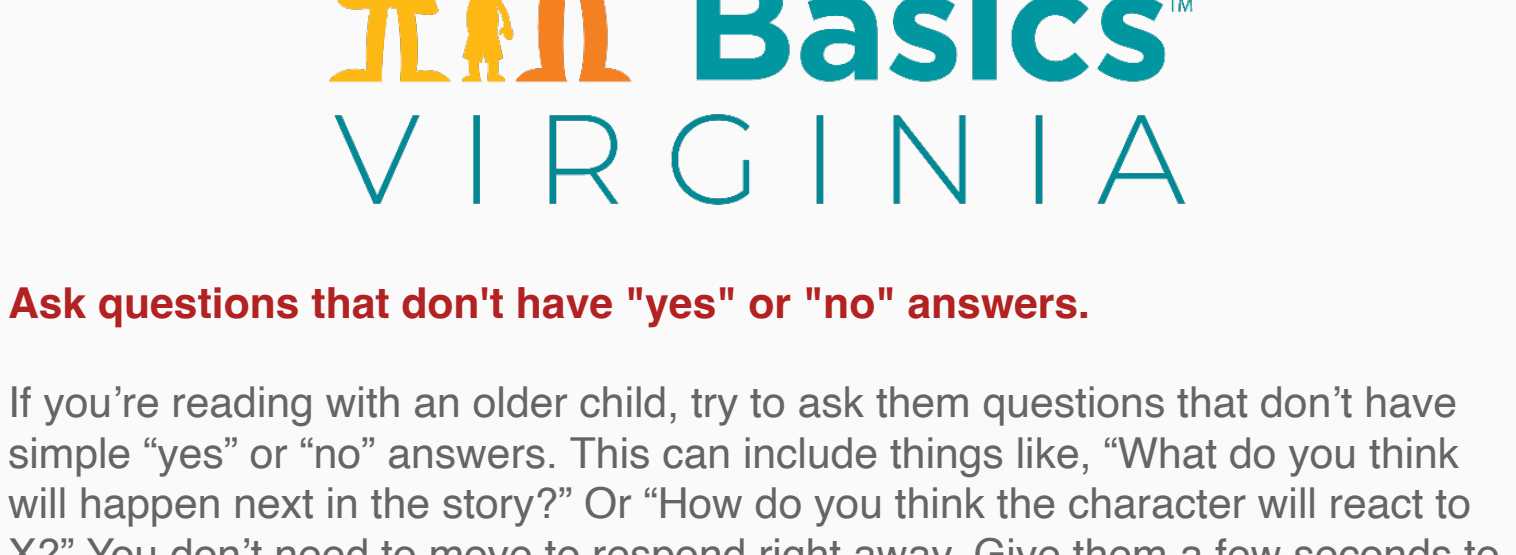
Is your reader eager to get their hands on more books?

Visit your local library!

Sign up for a library card to keep the reading momentum!

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 the City of Richmond 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

Celebrating

5,500 Sign-ups!

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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