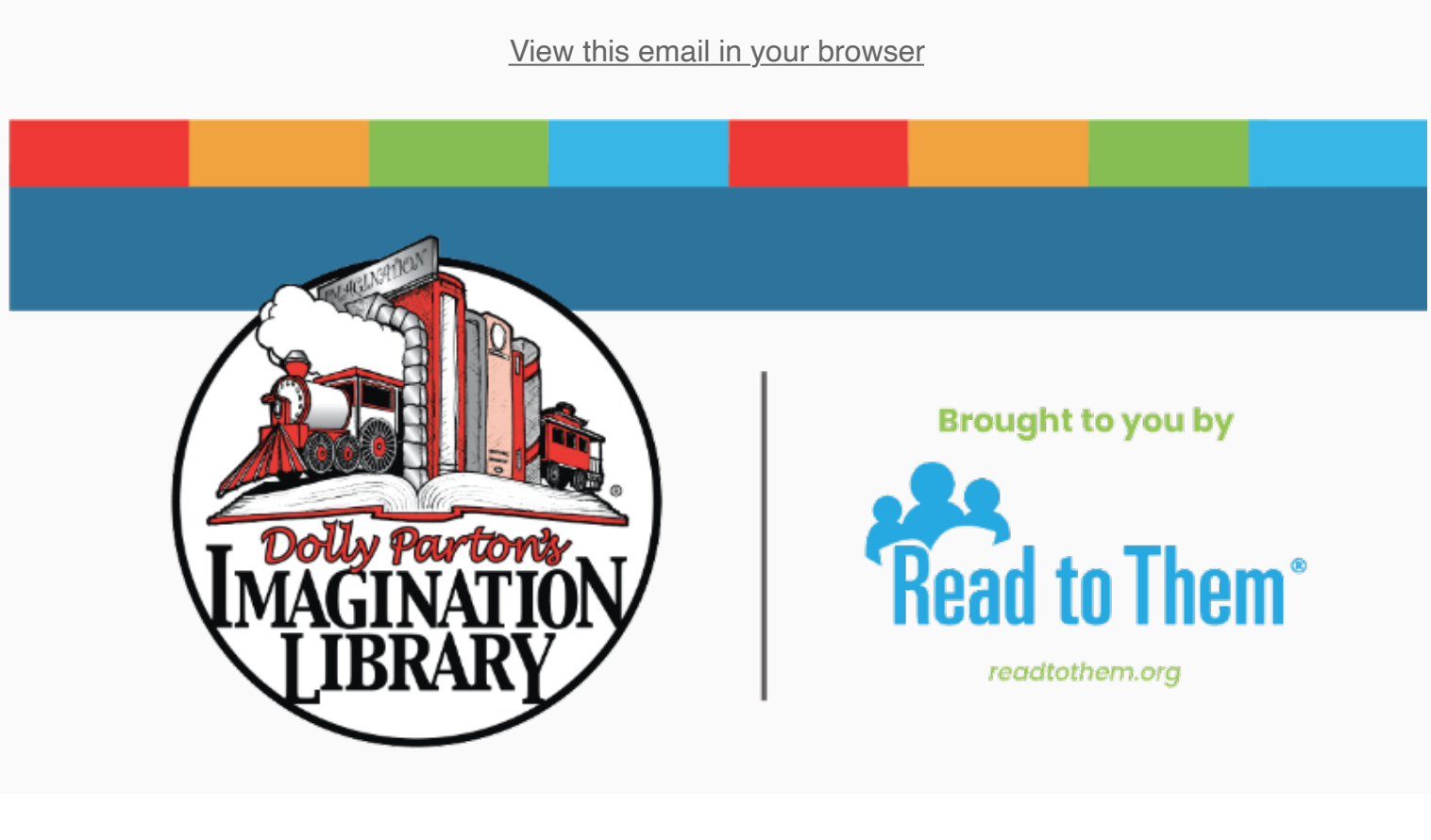




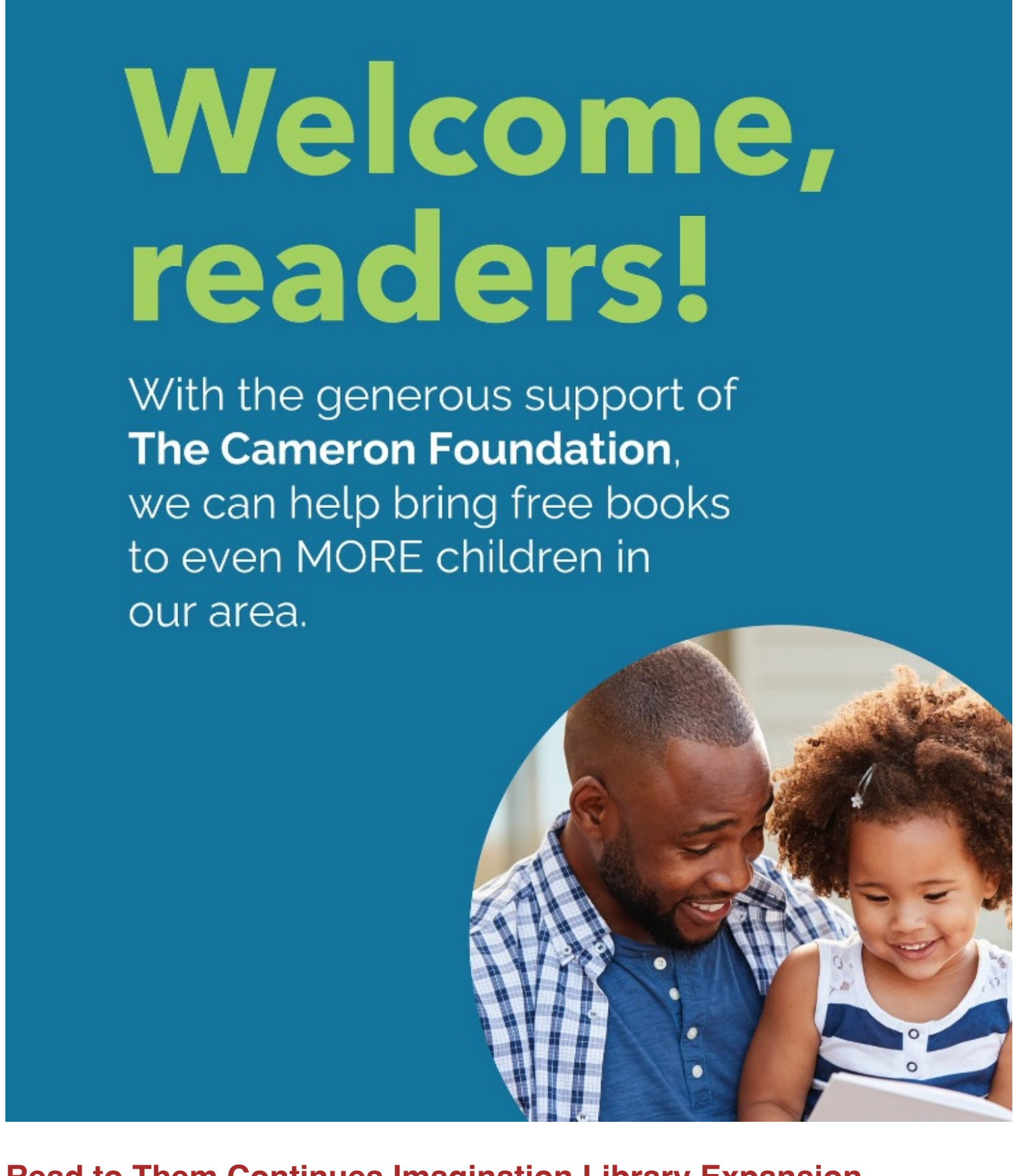
Happy Fall, Petersburg!

October 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



Read to Them Continues Imagination Library Expansion Throughout Central Virginia

Read to Them is proud to announce that Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has expanded into the city of Colonial Heights, Sussex County, and Prince George County. Imagination Library has also arrived in select zip codes south of Route 10 in Chesterfield County.

Expansion into Colonial Heights, Sussex, Prince George, and southern Chesterfield would not have been possible without funding from The Cameron Foundation. Headquartered in Petersburg, VA, Cameron is a place-based foundation serving the Tri-Cities region through strategic support of key community needs, including early childhood education. The Foundation's funding also will ensure continued service to children and their families in Petersburg.

"There's abundant research to show that investing in early literacy leads to kindergarten readiness and other academic achievements," said Nadine Marsh-Carter, JD, President of The Cameron Foundation. "...And it all starts with an activity as simple as someone – a mother, father, grandparent, sister or brother – spending this quality time at home, reading to their child," she added. "Backed by research, the Imagination Library program will help to foster a culture of reading for families across our region."

For more than 20 years, Read to Them has been dedicated to building connections between home and school, providing students and their families the necessary tools, resources, and guidance to create a culture of literacy in their community. Read to Them's Executive Director Christa Donohue said, "Read to Them has a long history promoting family literacy and a love of reading throughout the City of Richmond. I am beyond thrilled that this valuable resource will be available in our neighboring regions, and that our shared community of readers is getting so much bigger. We cannot wait for kids to start receiving their books!"

Improving early childhood literacy with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library creates opportunities for children to thrive and be prepared to enter kindergarten, as well as help their communities grow and prosper.

Donohue said, "Building a home library is a vital part of nurturing a love of reading at an early age. What's most important, however, is taking the time to read aloud to your child, enjoying the story together."

Encourage Curiosity

Your October 2025 Reading Tip



When reading with your child, it's important to embrace their curiosity. Try to answer any questions they may have: about the topic of the book, about new words, about the illustrations. Anything that keeps their curiosity stoked and their excitement for reading going!

Upcoming Community Partner Events

[Click here to view our full list of community partner events in October.](#)

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](#).



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

Community Partner Spotlight



Building Community from the Start: ASCV's Support for Preschool Families

At the Autism Society of Central Virginia (ASCV), our mission is to support, empower, and build connections to improve the lives of all in our local autism community. For more than 40 years, we've been a trusted source of advocacy, education, and support—serving autistic individuals, their families and friends, and the professionals who walk alongside them.

We believe that connection and support should start early. That's why we offer a variety of programs designed specifically for families of preschool-aged children. Whether families are seeking a diagnosis, recently diagnosed, or a few years into their autism journey, these offerings create meaningful opportunities for learning, social play, and caregiver connection in welcoming, inclusive environments.

ASCV hosts monthly preschool meetups at local favorites like the Children's Museum of Richmond, Sunshine Play Café, PARK365, and more, providing a space for young children to explore and engage while caregivers connect with others who understand their journey.

Preschoolers can also participate in fitness classes at River City Inclusive Gym and Music and Development classes with Little Sunshine Music Studio. Caregivers can join us for virtual support groups, casual coffee meetups and parent nights out—with dedicated events for maternal and paternal caregivers, and even grandparents.

As your child grows, we will continue to walk beside you. The ASCV offers programs across the lifespan, from early childhood through adulthood. Whether you're looking for resources, community, or just a place to belong, we're honored to support you every step of the way.

🌟 Learn more and register for upcoming programs at <https://ascv.org/program-registration/>



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 [Petersburg Public Library](#).

Have a GREAT fall with Petersburg Public Library!

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



Sing With Your Child This Month!



Count around town.

When reading with your child, it's important to embrace their curiosity. Try to answer any questions they may have: about the topic of the book, about new words, about the illustrations. Anything that keeps their curiosity stoked and their excitement for reading going!

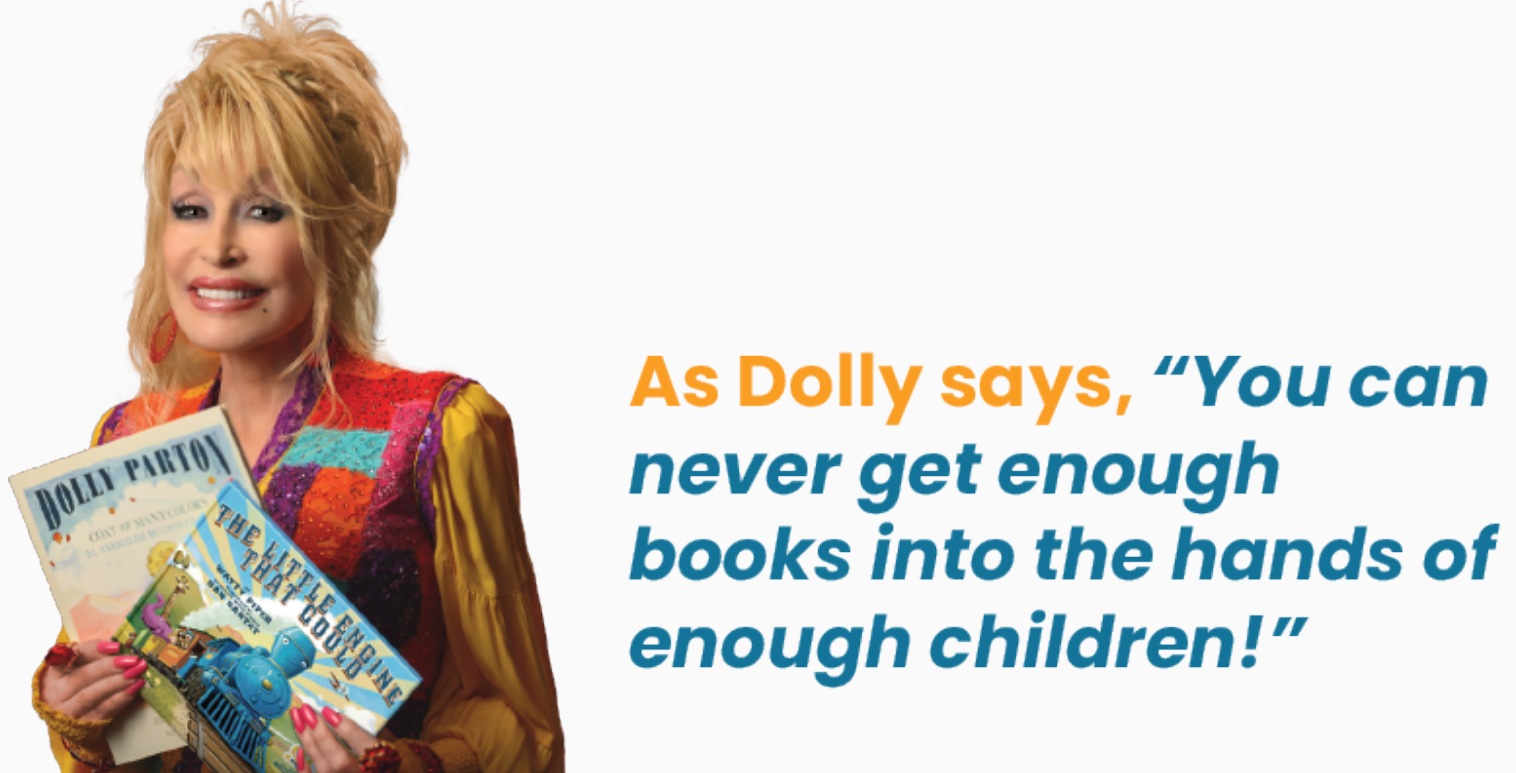
Visit this principle from the Basics [here](#).

To learn more about how you can Count, Group, and Compare, 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.

[Check availability](#) in your area today!



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