BEST BEGINNINGS
Alaska's Early Childhood Investment

E-Newsletter

September 2013 E-newsletter

Attendance matters, even in child care

September is the first-ever Attendance Awareness Month, and the research shows that attendance in early childhood programs affects attendance and performance in later school years. A lot of learning takes place in those early care programs – social skills, problem solving – and it all benefits from showing up regularly. The habits and family routines built up in the early years translate into more school success later on. How can we do better?

Monday night in Anchorage: Books Build Better Brains

Sharing books with babies is critical to their abilities to learn, regulate emotions, and succeed. In a public lecture, Dr. Dipesh Navsaria will discuss early brain and child development, along with innovative approaches to help children flourish in their first thousand days. **Monday, Sept. 16, 7 p.m.**, in the Wilda Marston Theatre, Loussac Library. For more about early brain development, check these resources.

Early childhood champs

A big thanks to Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) for its generous gift of $5,000, proceeds from AHFC's recent golf tournament. This contribution – and staff support of enrollment – encourage

StoryTRACKS events

Read along with StoryTRACKS as "Silly Sally" goes to town. Anchorage Parks & Recreation is bringing her story to **Russian Jack Park this Saturday, Sept. 14, 2 - 4 p.m.**

Bring StoryTRACKS to your own activities, birthday parties, picnics. A good story can add to any event, and check out is free.

Sign one out today!

Looking for a great baby shower gift?

Here's an affordable, creative – and very practical – gift idea for a baby shower: *Babies on Track.* The set comes with our 14-minute DVD for parents along with two companion baby board books.

Babies on Track is a delightful resource that shows parents how they can engage their babies with everyday activities and help those little brains grow.

Order a set (or more) today

children in public housing all over the state to sign up for Imagination Library. AHFC first partnered with Best Beginnings two years ago to bring books into their families' homes. Read more.

Photo Credit: Clark Mishler

Oasis of calm

The Parents' Pit Stop was a huge success at last month's Tanana Valley State Fair in Fairbanks, serving nearly 2,000 people. Parents with infants and toddlers could relax, recharge, and receive local information on family resources and health. Staffed by 42 volunteers from 16 local agencies, Parents' Pit Stop was organized by the Fairbanks Breastfeeding Coalition in collaboration with Fairbanks Families, a Best Beginnings Partnership.

Welcome new staff!

We're delighted to introduce three new staff at Best Beginnings (from left to right). **Beth Johnson**, development manager, has years of experience in fundraising, most recently at United Way of Anchorage. **Marilyn Balluta**, administrative coordinator, retired last year from the Anchorage School District, after 30 years in the Title VII Indian Education program. Our new partnerships manager, **Megan Gregory**, recently moved to Anchorage from Douglas. She worked previously as community project coordinator at Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium. We're glad they're here! Staff contacts.

Join the excitement

Early childhood is a pretty exciting time – for babies and adults! There's a whole lot going on to make Alaska friendly and supportive for families as well as nurturing for our children.

Be a part of this exciting work with a financial contribution to Best Beginnings.

Make a donation today

Please join us in this critical mission! Like us now at Facebook.com/BestBeginnings and become a valuable ally in the movement to invest more in Alaska's young children.

Best Beginnings is a public-private partnership that mobilizes people and resources to ensure all Alaska children begin school ready to succeed.

Connect with us: