



BEST BEGINNINGS

Alaska's Early Childhood Investment

MAY 2014 E-NEWSLETTER



It's everywhere...and in more ways than one

Young children are curious about everything. They're born that way – to explore, to build, to question. There's a major movement afoot to take more advantage of those natural instincts by integrating science, technology, engineering, and math into the early learning environment. [STEM in early learning is a hot topic right now – and for good reason.](#)



Nurturing the inner scientist

Why are Legos still so popular? What child isn't entranced by small creatures? What parent hasn't struggled to answer a toddler's questions? *Why is the sky blue? Why do worms come out when it rains? Why don't bridges fall down?* [Science, technology, engineering, and math](#) are part and parcel of the world that small children naturally want to explore.

Prepare for kindergarten

DONATE

Great graduates bloom from the best beginnings

As we wish the Class of 2014 congratulations, consider investing in tomorrow's graduates today. A gift to Best Beginnings helps:

- Children learn and grow
- Parents connect with their children
- Families connect with their communities

EVERY gift matters.
[Give today.](#)



with summer fun

It's nearly summer, which means Alaskans will be spending lots of time outdoors. It's also time to make sure kindergarten-bound children are prepared. Use outdoor activities as part of your summer plan to ensure a smooth transition. Check out [Exploring Nature](#) and [Kindergarten Readiness](#) for tips on how you can infuse summer activities with kindergarten prep.

Sincere thanks to Alaska's legislators

Best Beginnings wants to thank Alaska lawmakers for once again choosing to invest in young children. "We are very pleased that our state support was renewed at the same level as last year. Funding from the Department of Education & Early Development is crucial to continuing our statewide work to ensure every child has the opportunity to start school ready to succeed," says Executive Director Abbe Hensley. Learn more about our [2014 public policy priorities for early childhood](#).



Shop for literacy!

Fred Meyer is a wonderful community partner, donating \$2.5 million annually to local schools, organizations and nonprofits, including Imagination Library. And with its Community Rewards program, you can help direct the funds:

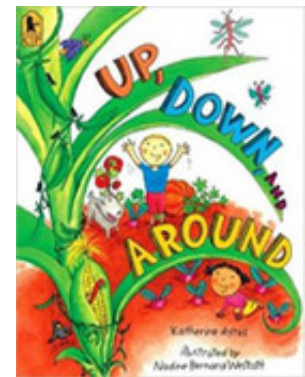


1. Sign into your account at FredMeyer.com/communityrewards.
2. Link your Rewards Card to a participating non-profit of your choice.
3. Shop as you always do.



Reading Rendezvous!

Your family will have a blast at this year's [Reading Rendezvous](#). Come out to the Loussac Library on Saturday, May 17 from noon to 4 p.m. for **Fizz... Boom... Read!** This special event features music, entertainment, activities, and more. (Event is rain or shine.)



StoryTRACKS events abound

Flowers aren't the only things bloomin' as spring takes hold. Public events with StoryTRACKS are sprouting up all over! *Up, Down, and Around* will be

When you use your Rewards Card while shopping, you'll be helping your chosen organization earn a donation. If you don't have a card, sign up for one at the Customer Service desk at any Fred Meyer store.

Check with your community's [Imagination Library](#) to see if it is registered and start shopping today!

at Chugiak Elementary School's Garden Parties, 4 - 6 p.m., May 19 - 22.

Check our [Facebook page](#) for more StoryTRACKS public events and bring StoryTRACKS to your own special events. [Check out is FREE!](#)

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

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