



July 2010 E-Newsletter



New baby – not a job for sissies

Our fifth grandchild arrived just a few weeks ago, and as I watch my daughter, and help when I can, I'm struck once again by how hard it is to be a new parent. While I empathize with my daughter, I revel in being a grandmother. And apparently, [we're not the only species with this helpful relationship >>](#)



Kindergartners: State of the State

How do Alaska's kindergartners measure up REALLY? Thanks to a revised assessment of children as they enter kindergarten – a process implemented this past year – we should have a better sense of our children's skills, knowledge, and abilities. [See how our children stack up statewide >>](#)



Adding value to Imagination Library

Imagination Library is not just a book delivery program; it's a Get-the-Whole-Community-Involved-in-Reading-to-Kids Program! Family nights, storytimes, big kick-offs, and Book Bashes – [read about the ways communities help Imagination Library books come alive >>](#)

A natural way to learn

Summer in Alaska is chock-full of activities for young children. Regardless

Imagination Library News

New Imagination Libraries

Brevig Mission
Unalakleet
Tatitlek

North Slope Imagination Library will expand to:

Anaktuvuk Pass
Atkasuk
Kaktovik
Nuiqsut
Point Hope
Point Lay
Wainwright

Mat-Su held kick-offs in:

Wasilla
Palmer
Big Lake

Kuskokwim Imagination Library expanded to:



of where you live, nature is a playground loaded with fun and engrossing opportunities. Check out some [great nature activities](#) courtesy of Carmen Field, Education Associate/Naturalist at the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve.

Upper and Lower
Kalskag
Sleetmute
Stony River

Get Involved

**Best Beginnings
is now on
[Facebook!](#)**



America's Children & the Recession

How are America's children being affected by the Great Recession of 2008-2009? Children under 18 are the single largest group in America living in poverty, but what about health, emotional/spiritual well-being, and social relationships during recessions?

[Check out the 2010 Child and Youth Well-Being Index >>](#)



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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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