



January 2011 E-Newsletter



Building Blocks of Literacy

I have a long personal and professional history with early childhood and education issues. Even so, I find that our work here sometimes produces delightful ah-ha moments. My latest example of this relates to *phonemic awareness*.

[Learn more about this critical building block to literacy >>](#)



Books for Providence Newborns

Providence Health & Services staff and volunteers will help parents enroll new babies in Imagination Library before they even leave the hospital – and cover the costs for their first year of books. What a great way to start new, healthy lives! Best Beginnings is enormously grateful for their support. [Find out why this arrangement is so valuable >>](#)



New Resource for Fairbanks Families

Fairbanks has lots of resources for families. The challenge has been figuring out what and where they are. That's all changed with the unveiling of a wonderful new website with everything a family needs to find – in one place. [View website and learn the story behind its creation >>](#)

Nanwalek Into Books

Books and reading are big in Nanwalek, with Imagination Library both a reflection

Big Thanks Due

We're grateful for the renewed support of the following donors, allowing Best Beginnings' work to continue around the state:

United Way of Anchorage
\$80,000

BP
\$25,000

The CIRI Foundation
\$20,000

ConocoPhillips
\$10,000

And a big welcome to our new supporter:

Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.
\$25,000

Get Involved

During the 2011 session of the legislature, Best Beginnings will be monitoring and speaking out on policy and budget issues related to early childhood. Stay tuned



of and a catalyst for all their focus on literacy. Whether it's summer reading, organizing a community library, or holding "Bingo for Books," Nanwalek makes literacy come alive. [Read about all the excitement >>](#)

to our [Home Page](#).

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Learning: Is there an app for that?

Mobile apps are everywhere and no one has been spared. What about very young children? A three-part report from The Joan Ganz Cooney Center at Sesame Workshop looks at new trends in smartphone apps, the results of three studies on apps as potential learning tools, and the implications of these findings. [View research >>](#)



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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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