



July 2011 E-Newsletter



Formula for Kindergarten Success

I wrote a column a couple of years ago about getting ready for kindergarten, and that column attracted more response than anything else I've written. Of course, everything we do at Best Beginnings is about getting ready for kindergarten. But as that first day of school looms, I thought about it from a slightly different angle: [What does kindergarten success look like?](#)



Imagination Library Homecoming'

Every two years, representatives of Imagination Libraries from all over the world converge on Dolly Parton's hometown for four days of workshops, presentations, sharing, and learning. This year Best Beginnings sent nine Alaskans from around the state. They returned inspired with new ideas, great practical hints, and a sense of accomplishment. [Check out a recap of their experiences and proud moments >>](#)

Partnership promotes "language nests"

Ilisaaq: A Best Beginnings Partnership is helping revitalize the Iñupiaq language in the Northwest Arctic Borough with programs that will immerse children in the language early – at an age when they're most receptive to learning languages. Their long range hope is for

Three cheers for Credit Union 1

Throughout August, all **Credit Union 1** branches will have signs on the counters inviting patrons to make a donation to Best Beginnings' work.

Credit Union 1 has branches in Anchorage (9), Fairbanks (2), Kodiak, Nome, Ketchikan, and Soldotna.

If you're a member, let them know how much we appreciate this opportunity!

Congratulations to Emilie Swenning

Emilie Swenning of the [Nanwalek Imagination Library](#) has been honored by the [Alaska Center for the Book](#) as a recipient of their annual Contributions to Literacy in Alaska (CLIA) Award.



each village to have a full-time immersion child care center. [Learn more about this concept >>](#)

Emilie went the extra mile to find space and books to develop a community library, too!



Go ahead: Spoil with affection

Three studies suggest the same thing: children who are shown more affection early in life reap big benefits. Researchers found kids who were held more by their parents, whose cries received quick responses in infancy, and who were disciplined without corporal punishment were kinder later in life. [View research >>](#)

Significant social changes occur partly because of shifts in how people think. When Best Beginnings becomes part of your world through Facebook, you are contributing to that change in thinking.

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and become a valuable ally in the movement to invest more in Alaska's young children.



photo courtesy of Mary Sattler

There's nothing like summer

In rural communities all over Alaska, fish camp – such as this one on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta – is the way of life in summer. Children of all ages help with the work and learn valuable hands-on lessons. Even children who don't travel to fish camp can dive into the outdoors, thanks to programs offered in different communities. [Find some of them listed on our website >>](#)

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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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