



June 2011 E-Newsletter



Early childhood gains higher profile

As a result of strong advocacy, there is more conversation happening in the halls of the Capitol about early childhood. The 2011 legislative session produced mixed results, but efforts are underway in the months between sessions to continue educating state policy makers about the value of investing early for long-term results.

[More about progress at the state level >>](#)



New and improved website!

The Best Beginnings website is so chock-full of information it was easy to get lost. Now – logically reorganized with a fresh design – things will be much quicker to find, whether it's activities for children, our ongoing projects, or "what you can do." Please [let us know](#) what you think and help us uncover any inadvertent glitches: [BestBeginningsAlaska.org >>](http://BestBeginningsAlaska.org)



Families First in Homer finds its feet

When Week of the Young Child was celebrated in April, Families First in Homer rocked the town with the sheer variety and number of events and activities offered. Families First is one of 11 early childhood partnerships in Alaska uniting agencies and individuals to create healthier communities. [More on valuable lessons they've learned >>](#)

Dolly Parton congratulates Alaskans

When Alaska's enrollment topped 13,000 children receiving Imagination Library books every month, Dolly Parton sent a special greeting and congratulations to all the Alaskans who make this possible.

[Check it out on YouTube](#)

Research

Books in the home as important as parents' education level

Whether rich or poor, illiterate or college graduates, parents who have books in the home increase the level of education their children will attain, according to a 20-year study led by Associate Professor Mariah Evans, University of Nevada, Reno. Even a little goes a long way.

[Read more >>](#)



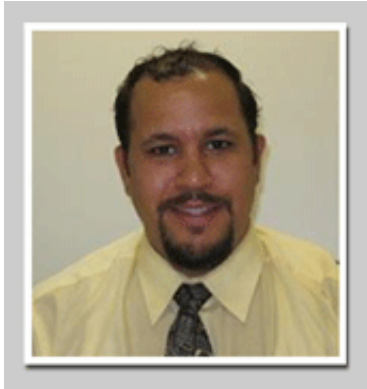
AHFC brings Imagination Library to children in public housing

Thanks to a new partnership with the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC), Imagination Library will reach many more low-income families in communities all over Alaska. AHFC is distributing enrollment forms and also made a financial contribution. [Find out how this partnership works >>](#)



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Teeters joins Best Beginnings team

Best Beginnings is pleased to announce the appointment of Jonathan Teeters as Partnerships Manager. Teeters will work closely with Best Beginnings' 11 early childhood partnerships. He will also take a lead role in furthering the business community's engagement in Best Beginnings' efforts. [More about what Teeters brings to the job>>](#)

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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.

Connect with us:

