



September 2011 E-Newsletter



Suppose you gave a party and everyone came ...

...and brought along a few of their friends? You'd feel valued, appreciated, and thrilled. But you'd also be worried. Will there be enough food? Will everyone have a good time? That's the story of Anchorage Imagination Library, which is growing at breakneck speed. The original handful of dedicated volunteer organizers need help. [Find out what you can do >>](#)



Partnerships making great progress

Early childhood partnerships represent a new way of doing business: local people identifying local priorities around early childhood -- and taking action together. Initiated and funded in part by Best Beginnings, the 10 Alaska partnerships are making great progress in their communities. [Take a look at what they've accomplished >>](#)



Evaluation Results Positive

Parents of children enrolled in Imagination Library for at least one year read to their children more frequently, report their children are more enthusiastic about reading, and perceive their children as better prepared for kindergarten. [Read more about the research on Alaska's Imagination Libraries >>](#)

Funds Available for Imagination Library

Best Beginnings is accepting proposals to launch or expand [Imagination Library](#)

Applications must be received by **5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 17.**

All information, including an application checklist, is available with the [Request for Proposal](#)

Credit Union 1 customers: You rock!

Customers at **Credit Union 1** around Alaska contributed more than \$3,000 to Best Beginnings in August. A big thanks to Credit Union 1 and its generous customers!



Business Leaders Team Up to Benefit Education, Economy

The Partnership for America's Economic Success, a project of the Pew Center on the States, has released a new video that features business leaders and policy makers discussing why early childhood programs are important both to our nation's future work force and economy.

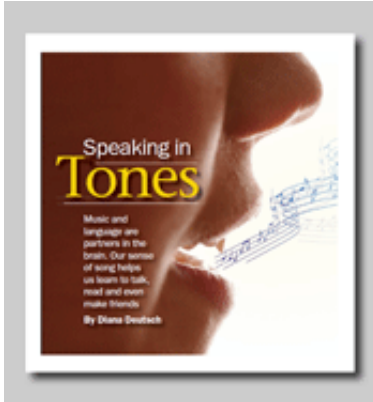
[View video >>](#)



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.



Music and language closely linked

In the mid-20th century, researchers argued that language and music resided in separate areas of the brain. But according to Diana Deutsch, professor at Univ. of California, San Diego, the neural networks dedicated to speech and song significantly overlap. Music and language are so closely intertwined that awareness of music is critical to a baby's language development. [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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