



January 2012 E-newsletter



A look back at 2011

We did all that? At the start of a new year, it's always a good idea to take inventory of the year just ended. Sure, I knew we were busy, but wow, Best Beginnings was really hopping in 2011. [Here's a sampling >>](#)



Expanding horizons

A passport opens up the world. It lets you visit new places, meet new people, do new things. Ketchikan has lots of opportunities for children, but families don't always take advantage of all there is to do. The Ketchikan Early Childhood Leadership Team came up with a creative way to expand children's horizons. [Check out the Passport for Kids.](#)



Partnerships apply "protective" principles

Two Best Beginnings partnerships are applying principles they learned in recent Strengthening Families training to help families in their communities become stronger. Find out how Homer Families First and Ketchikan's Early Childhood Leadership Team are using their knowledge of [protective factors to make a difference.](#)

Coming soon near you!

Babies on Track, Best Beginnings' latest resource for parents of young children, will get the red carpet treatment, with premieres all over Alaska, **Feb. 25 to March 4.**

Free copies of the DVD for parents and companion board books will be available at the premiere events for families with children under 2 years of age.

Population of young children on the rise

The 2010 census reports that Alaska now has 53,996 children under 5. That's a 9% increase over the 2000 census number of 49,670.



Guidance offered on kindergarten readiness assessments

Interest in assessing children as they enter kindergarten has gained a lot of momentum the past few years. To help states and other stakeholders develop assessment tools, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) recently released [Developing Kindergarten Readiness and Other Large-Scale Assessment Systems: Necessary Considerations in the Assessment of Young Children.](#)

Start the year right

Here's a great New Year's resolution:

When you [contribute to Best Beginnings](#), you're giving to a good cause and making a long-term investment in Alaska's future.



[Like us now](#)

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

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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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