



# BEST BEGINNINGS

Alaska's Early Childhood Investment

## NOVEMBER 2013 E-NEWSLETTER



*Abbe Hensley, Executive  
Director of Best Beginnings*

### Why the 30 million word gap is so important

Our words count. All of a sudden, it seems everybody – including politicians and major media outlets – is talking about the huge vocabulary gap among young children according to socioeconomic level. It's good news that opinion leaders are focusing on the importance of parents' verbal interactions with their children. [Read more >>](#)



### Language gap starts in infancy, study finds

The quality and quantity of verbal interactions between parent and baby show up even earlier than previously thought, according to a new [Stanford study](#). Low-income children show achievement gaps in language development as early as 18 months. [Read more >>](#)

### Imagination Library linked to school performance

Scientific studies are beginning to confirm what we have always suspected about Imagination Library:

## Your Gift Today...

Will help Alaska children have their best beginnings – and their best future.

Support our work to ensure each and every Alaska child begins school ready to succeed.



## Holiday Bazaar with a Twist

Give the gift of Imagination Library to Alaska children.

[Anchorage Imagination Library](#) will have a booth at the [Mitzvah Mall](#), Anchorage's alternative gift fair.

**Sunday, Nov. 24**

Noon to 3 p.m.

Congregation Beth



Participating children perform better on kindergarten assessments, and the earlier they're enrolled – the longer they've received books – the better.

[Read more >>](#)



### 100,000th Imagination Library book distributed

[Southeast Imagination Library](#)

celebrated a big milestone last week, when First Lady Sandy Parnell presented a Juneau infant with his own *Little Engine that Could*. The event also kicked off a fund raising campaign to finance 1,000 new babies with their five years of books.



### Play and Learn! Early literacy place

The new colorful and creative space at Loussac Library is designed to help babies and toddlers practice their five early literacy skills, how to: talk, sing, read, write, and play. Parents and caregivers get ideas on incorporating these activities at home, too. [More tips here >>](#)

Sholom, 7525 E Northern Lights Blvd.

## Growing and Growing: 21,294!

Cordova Imagination Library held its kick-off celebration November 16, and Sand Point and Port Heiden are in the works! Statewide, 21,294 children now receive an [Imagination Library](#) book in the mail each month.

## Welcome to Alaska, Cardboard Dolly!



3350 Commercial Drive Suite 104A | Anchorage, AK 99501 US  
(907) 297-3300 | [info@BestBeginningsAlaska.org](mailto:info@BestBeginningsAlaska.org) | [www.BestBeginningsAlaska.org](http://www.BestBeginningsAlaska.org)

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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