



# BEST BEGINNINGS

Alaska's Early Childhood Investment

## JANUARY 2014 E-NEWSLETTER

### **Words Count**

Welcome to *Words Count*, a new public engagement campaign from Best Beginnings that encourages parents to talk, sing, read, and play with their young children every day. The centerpiece of *Words Count* is this [60-second video](#). Be sure to share it with friends and family and [learn more](#).



**Abbe Hensley**, Executive  
Director of Best Beginnings

### **Hectic lives**

"Hectic" is how many young parents I know describe their everyday lives. Yet they really want to spend time with their young children and help those brains grow. Busy times often present wonderful opportunities for your child to explore the world around him. The more that's going on around you, the more there is to talk about. Over the years, I've learned a few tricks. [Read more](#).

### **Babies on Track**

Best Beginnings' DVD-and-board-books set is a delightful way to add more interaction to your time with your baby. Introducing the idea of TRACKS – Talk, Respond, Ask questions, Connect, Keep at it, and Sing and tell

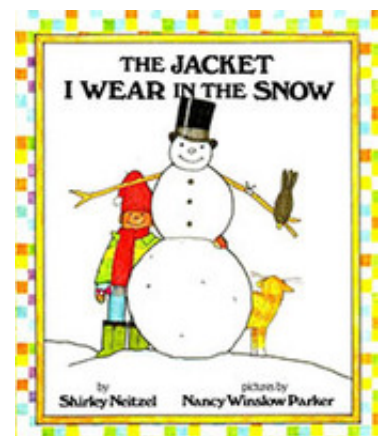


### **Kick off the New Year with a gift to Best Beginnings**

Your investment in early childhood is one of the best ways to help:

- Children learn and grow
- Parents connect with their children
- Families connect with their communities

EVERY gift matters. Give today.





stories – *Babies on Track* is made for Alaska babies. [Learn more.](#)



### **The wonder of wordless books**

Books without words encourage parents and children to use their imaginations in telling a story around the pictures. Since there's no temptation to stick to the script, parent and child can change the story, make up words, and personalize it. Check out these [hints](#) and [recommendations.](#)



### **“Dialogic Reading” – a give-and-take technique**

Try a twist with your reading by prompting your child with questions and encouraging discussion. “No one can learn to play the piano just by listening to someone else play. Likewise, no one can learn to read just by listening to someone else read.” [Learn more.](#)

## **StoryTRACKS in the Snow**

We've added some winter titles to our StoryTRACKS repertoire. Include them in your winter events and you can walk or ski as you read along. A good story can add to any good time – even indoors – and check out is free.

[Learn more.](#)

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## **Help Wanted**

Anchorage Imagination Library is hiring for its Program Coordinator position: part-time, to begin March 1. Be part of this valuable and rewarding community effort; support the volunteers who get all those books to Anchorage's children.

[View job announcement.](#)

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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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