Pediatricians prescribe books for babies
From a pediatrician’s point of view, early out-loud reading is right up there with breastfeeding and immunizations in terms of far-reaching positive impacts. That’s the message delivered recently by the American Academy of Pediatrics, which is urging its 62,000 members to “prescribe” reading to children right from birth. This is a big deal—and Alaskans are already on top of it! Read more.

Imagination Library keeps growing!
Two new Imagination Libraries – and growth at existing ones – mean this children’s literacy program now serves more than 22,000 Alaska children. That’s 41% of all children under age 5 in our state receiving books in 111 different communities! With the launching of Chevak and Ninilchik Imagination Libraries, Alaska now has 34 local programs. And thanks to a state grant and support from funders and donors, 20 Alaska Imagination Libraries will receive grants this year from Best Beginnings totaling $325,516.

Getting ready for back-to-school?
School preparation doesn’t start mid-summer with new coats and pencils. It starts at birth and keeps on going: talk, sing, play and read with your baby and young child every day. Making a gift to Best Beginnings helps prepare Alaska children for success in school and in life.

Go, go, go!
We’re growing! Stay tuned for more news as Alaska
Learn more about the recent awards and how to help expand Imagination Library.

*Babies on Track* – making tracks all over Alaska

In 2012, Best Beginnings launched *Babies on Track*, a 14-minute DVD for parents, with two companion baby board books. *Babies on Track* promotes parents’ interactions with babies during everyday activities to help them learn language, sounds, and social skills. So how are folks using *Babies on Track* around Alaska? We asked around. Here’s what we learned.

Get yours today!

For a limited time, get your own *Babies on Track* for just $5. Click for details.

**Water, bears, heat – keep safe this summer!**

We Alaskans spend lots of time out-and-about on these long summer days. Make sure young children are safe out there. Check these links for simple steps your family can take to be safe around the water, in bear country, and out in the sun.
Got this as a forward? Sign up to receive our future emails.