



BEST BEGINNINGS

Alaska's Early Childhood Investment

JULY 2014 E-NEWSLETTER



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.

DONATE

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.](#)

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](#).



approaches its 1 millionth Imagination Library book!



Get yours today!

For a limited time, get your own *Babies on Track* for just \$5. [Click for details.](#)

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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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