



BEST BEGINNINGS

Alaska's Early Childhood Investment

MARCH 2014 E-NEWSLETTER



We must change it!

Recently I learned this heartbreaking 2012 statistic: **47% of Alaska children with substantiated reports of harm were under age 6.** These are our youngest and most vulnerable children. Alaska has among the highest per capita rates of child abuse and neglect in the country. April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month – [we must change that statistic.](#)

Great Alaska ShakeOut

March 27, 1:36 pm: Drop, Cover, and Hold On! Join thousands of Alaskans for the Great Alaska ShakeOut in commemoration of the 1964 earthquake. Are your family, home, and child care earthquake-ready? Have you planned how to locate each other after an earthquake? Wonderful [resources](#) are available. *Let's Get Ready!* toolkits are on the [Sesame Street website.](#)



Quality early care and learning

Over the next few months, a series of

DONATE

Spring into spring 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.](#)



Imagination Library hits new high



gatherings for parents, early childhood professionals, and others will get under way as work resumes to establish a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) in Alaska. The long term result: clear standards, better consumer information, and incentives for providers to improve. [Here's more about this statewide effort.](#)

Mat-Su partners take cooperation to high level

Cooperation is a whole lot more than a nice idea in the Mat-Su Borough. Members of the Early Childhood Partnership of Mat-Su have taken the concept and run with it. By working together, they are reaching more families in more ways and serving as a statewide model for just how effective partnerships can be. [Learn more about this collaboration.](#)

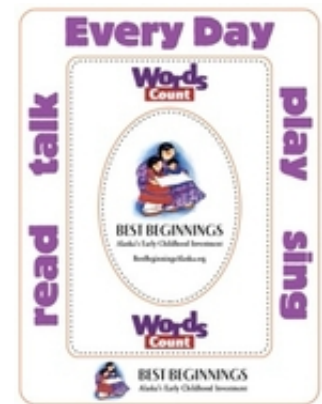


Take yourself on a treasure hunt through the...

...Best Beginnings website. Here are a few treats you may not have come across yet. [Lullabies](#) in seven European languages? Free Families' Club Kits for [exploring nature?](#) Imagination Library [book activity sheets?](#) That powerful video about [changing the first 5 years?](#) Find it all at [BestBeginningsAlaska.org!](#)

A full 40% of Alaska's under-5 crowd are now enrolled in Imagination Library under the Best Beginnings umbrella. Imagine it: 21,669 children in 110 communities are being served by 32 local Imagination Libraries.

Is there one where you live? [Find out here.](#)



Early alert – Words Count photo contest

Watch our [Facebook page](#) for the Words Count photo contest in April. You'll print out the image above, cut out the center and put your child's photo in the middle. We hope to see yours!

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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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