



# BEST BEGINNINGS

## Alaska's Early Childhood Investment

### April 2016 E-NEWSLETTER

#### The connection between early literacy and incarceration

The rumor was false but the connection was real. In our guest blog, educator Stan Lujan tackles the connection between Alaskans in prison and literacy. As Stan notes in his [testimony](#) to the House Finance Committee, prison planners do not look to reading scores to predict how many prison beds they'll need. But the connection is stark.



#### Preventing child abuse all year round

Many people and organizations recognized the month of April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This focus provided a great opportunity to promote

simple ways that parents and other adults can defuse stress, become more resilient, and teach children to be resilient, too. But let's not forget about the other 11 months of the year. We should keep in mind that we each can play an important role in promoting the social and emotional well-being of children and families in communities all year round. Best Beginnings has partnered with Alaska Children's Trust and others to produce a series of posters for fun and easy ways to support safe kids and happy families. You can print out the posters from [here](#). This web page also includes a list of tips and ideas for how YOU can make a difference.

#### Prevent and reduce effects of childhood trauma

It seems everywhere we turn these days, we see references to childhood trauma. Also called toxic stress, or adverse childhood experiences, it refers to the

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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.**



In May, 20,577 Alaska children will find a new, high quality, age-appropriate book in their mailbox!

- 39% of all the children under 5 in the state
- 29 local Imagination Libraries
- 104 Alaska communities
- \$30 per child per year

Local Imagination Libraries and Best Beginnings are working hard to raise the money needed to keep the books coming.

profound and long-lasting effects that traumatic experiences can have on children. What kind of experiences are we talking about, and what can we – parents, grandparents, concerned Alaskans – do to help? [Read more](#)



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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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