



BEST BEGINNINGS

Fiscal Year 2018
Impact Report

Best Beginnings is a public-private partnership that mobilizes people and resources to ensure all Alaska children begin school ready to succeed.

Since its founding in September 2006, Best Beginnings has carried out its mission by investing funds, resources, time, and energy in growing readers, building strong families, and engaging community.

GROWING READERS

18,581 children enrolled
in Imagination Library

223,729 books delivered
at no cost to the families

81% of parents read more to their children because of
Imagination Library in Alaska



FROM A PARENT:

"I am so extremely grateful for this program. I grew up in a house that literally did not have even one book. I know I have suffered from that type of environment. I struggled through school, was made fun of for being dumb and was always behind.

This program is not only changing my kids' lives for the better but has taught me how to read as well. It is truly changing lives."

Kindergarten readiness starts with reading.

Decades of research show that children who have access to books in the home and are read to from birth have greater academic success. Children participating in Imagination Library have statistically significant higher kindergarten readiness scores in reading and math.

Early literacy is a smart investment.

\$456,640

spent on books by Alaska
Imagination Libraries

\$2,908,477

estimated market value of
books distributed in Alaska

**\$2.4 million dollars in cost savings
through leveraged partnerships.**



BEST BEGINNINGS
Alaska's Early Childhood Investment

BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES

1,634 early learning materials and tools distributed

5,157 parents receiving weekly newsletters with early learning and kindergarten readiness information

91% of parents with increased knowledge of parenting and child development

87% of parents feel closer to their children because of Imagination Library in Alaska

15,880 attendees at **151** family engagement events

ENGAGING COMMUNITY

112 Alaska communities served by Imagination Library

162 volunteers engaged

65 informational presentations on early learning

3,195 unique Alaskan visitors accessing early childhood information on our website

> \$500,000

private dollars generated in support of Imagination Library and early learning activities each year, not including thousands of volunteer hours.

"Best Beginnings' organizational infrastructure, oversight, and financial support in place for partners across the state is absolutely key to future success and sustainability of the Imagination Library in Alaska."

*- Jeff Conyers
Executive Director, The Dollywood Foundation*



A.S. 14.03.072 Early Literacy Information

(b) In partnership with local media outlets, the department shall create and implement a communications campaign to educate parents and guardians about the importance of early literacy. The campaign shall include an Internet website that provides access to current research on early literacy, book recommendations, and vocabulary-building exercises.

BEST BEGINNINGS

FISCAL YEAR 2018 AT A GLANCE

Program Highlights:

- 18,581 children enrolled
- 223,729 books delivered at no cost to families
- 7 community events featuring StoryTRACKS with 4,194 attendees
- 151 family engagement community events with 15,880 attendees
- 1,634 early learning activity guides, activity cards, Words Count materials, and Babies On Track sets were distributed
- More than 162 volunteers engaged in implementing Imagination Library
- 65 informational presentations
- 2,172 followers on Facebook and 3,195 unique Alaskan website visitors accessed early childhood learning information
- 100% of statewide Best Beginnings partner meeting survey respondents had new information and ideas they planned to put into practice in their communities, and increased enthusiasm for what they and their programs could do for their communities



From a statewide survey of Imagination Library parents:

81% of respondents reported that receiving Imagination Library books had increased the time spent reading with their child

87% of respondents reported that reading with their child brought them closer together

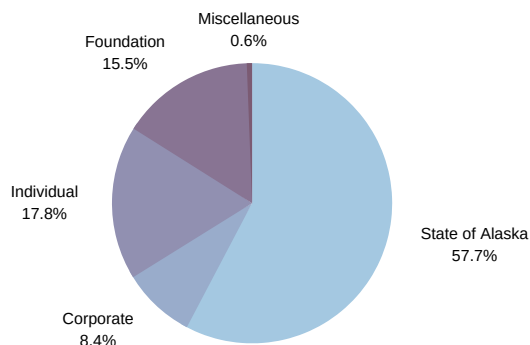
84% of respondents reported they could tell that reading with their child made him/her excited about reading

87% of respondents reported their child was happy when they read together

SINCE ITS BEGINNING, OVER 2 MILLION IMAGINATION LIBRARY BOOKS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE HOMES OF MORE THAN 74,000 ALASKA CHILDREN.

Financial Summary:

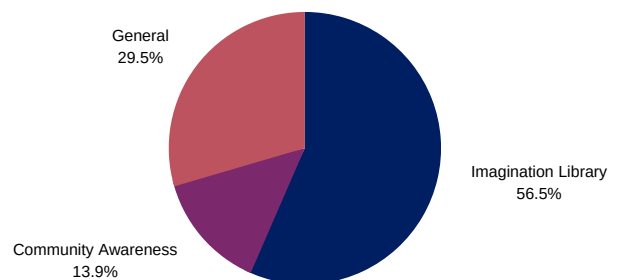
FUNDING



State of Alaska	\$320,000
Corporate	\$46,776
Individual	\$98,693
Foundation	\$85,687
Miscellaneous	\$3,357

*Additional funding provided through multi-year grant

EXPENSES



Imagination Library	\$351,457
Community Awareness	\$86,698
General	\$183,666