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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children enrolled in Imagination Library</th>
<th>Books delivered at no cost to the families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18,581</td>
<td>223,729</td>
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</table>

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

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.

*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.”
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

65 informational presentations on early learning

162 volunteers engaged

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.

For more information visit BestBeginningsAlaska.org
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

Financial Summary:

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