



# BEST BEGINNINGS

## Alaska's Early Childhood Investment

### July 2017 E-NEWSLETTER

#### Good News & Bad

There's good news and bad news. The good news is that the **Legislature has passed an operating budget that includes funding for early childhood** -- \$320,000 for Best Beginnings, \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers, and \$2 million for PreK grants. A big **Thank You!** to all those concerned Alaskans who met with, called, and emailed legislators, encouraging them to provide these resources to support young children and their families. Our communications work isn't finished though. Now it's our job to thank legislators for standing up for early childhood. You can find contact information for members of the budget conference committee, leadership, and your own legislators [here](#). **Please let them know their vote for early childhood was the right vote.**

And now for the bad news. [Read more](#)

#### Thank you!

Best Beginnings' mission is to mobilize people and resources to ensure all Alaska children begin school ready to succeed. We are pleased to acknowledge four companies and organizations that have joined us in support of this mission. Each of these has contributed \$5,000 or more.



Our thanks to AT&T, ConocoPhillips, Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation, and Wells Fargo!

(Shawn Uschmann, AT&T, presents a check to Best Beginnings' Laura Cisneros and Andria Werning)

#### Read on the Fly Wins a CLIA

[Read on the Fly](#) is one of four winners of the 2017 Contributions to Literacy in Alaska (CLIA) Award! Sponsored by the Alaska Center for

**DONATE NOW**

Secure donations through  
Network for Good

**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.**



**18,970  
Alaska  
Children  
Enrolled in  
July 2017**



#### Words Count!

Children exposed to more words their first few years:

- Develop bigger vocabularies
- Become stronger readers

Read, talk, sing, and play with your child - every day!



the Book, the CLIAs honor people and programs that have made a significant contribution in literacy, the literary arts, or the preservation of the written or spoken word.

Read on the Fly is the brainchild of Erin Kirkland, an Anchorage-based author who created and writes for the family travel website Alaska on the Go. Last year she launched Read on the Fly at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, placing bookshelves with free books for children to read at the

airport, or to take on their travels. Erin partners with Imagination Libraries wherever she can. The program has now grown to include Fairbanks, Juneau, and Ketchikan airports, with local volunteers and businesses helping out; more Alaska airports are scheduled to join.

Best Beginnings is proud to partner with Read on the Fly to promote early literacy across Alaska and serves as its fiscal sponsor.



**Lovalaska**  
Pick.Click.Give.

If you have not already done so, you can still donate to Best Beginnings through [Pick.Click.Give](#). The deadline is August 31, 2017.

3350 Commercial Drive Suite 104A | Anchorage, AK 99501 US  
(907) 297-3300 | [info@BestBeginningsAlaska.org](mailto:info@BestBeginningsAlaska.org) | [www.BestBeginningsAlaska.org](http://www.BestBeginningsAlaska.org)

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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