Kindergarten readiness starts with reading. The research is clear and the experts agree, children who have access to books and are read to from birth will have greater academic success.

Getting high-quality books into children’s hands, encouraging parents and caregivers to read with their children, and creating unique early literacy opportunities is growing readers in Alaska.

231,887 books mailed to Alaska children through Imagination Library
605 individuals participated in StoryTRACKS, an interactive early literacy activity
20,083 children in 107 Alaska communities received a brand-new, high-quality book each month at no cost to their families
85% of parents read more with their children because of Imagination Library in Alaska

Parents are a child’s first and most influential teacher. When parents are engaged with their young children in meaningful ways, children are better prepared to form friendships, communicate emotions, and deal with challenges - all critical skills for success in school and beyond.

Creating opportunities for meaningful parent-child interaction as well as educational materials and tools is building strong families in Alaska.

152 family events put on by Best Beginnings and its partners
9,337 attendees at free family events
826 early learning tools and materials provided to Alaskans
85% of Imagination Library parents are closer with their child as a result of reading together

For more information visit BestBeginningsAlaska.org
If all Alaska children are to begin school ready to succeed, Alaskans must be behind them. A community that demonstrates broad-based support for Alaska’s young children and their families creates an environment and circumstance in which they can thrive.

Raising awareness, garnering volunteer and financial support, training partners, and educating Alaskans about the importance of a child's first years is engaging community.

More children ready for kindergarten through leveraged resources and partnerships

Alaska Imagination Libraries spent $479,365.19 on books and postage in FY 2017

Estimated market value of books distributed through Imagination Library in Alaska in FY 2017 is $3,014,531

$2.5 million dollars in cost savings was realized in FY 2017 delivering high-quality books to tens of thousands of Alaska children through Imagination Library

A big state requires big support. Dozens of partners across Alaska join Best Beginnings to serve children and families by advocating, getting books to children, sharing educational information in person or via public service announcements, volunteering, and so much more. Alone, Best Beginnings can do a great deal. With committed partners, the impact for Alaska children and families is undeniable.

Best Beginnings Financial Summary FY 2017

**FUNDING**

- State of Alaska: $320,300
- Corporate: $101,558
- Individual: $103,447
- Foundation: $63,950
- Miscellaneous: $10,096

**EXPENSES**

- Imagination Library: $387,397
- Community Awareness: $113,443
- General: $126,978

*Additional funding provided through multi-year grant*

For more information visit www.BestBeginningsAlaska.org