



BEST BEGINNINGS

Alaska's Early Childhood Investment

January 2016 E-NEWSLETTER

Anchorage Imagination Library hits big milestone

In the Anchorage area this month, some unknown child will receive the 500,000th book distributed by Anchorage Imagination Library. This half-a-million milestone comes seven years after Anchorage Imagination Library began delivering books to Anchorage area children.



Thank you to the amazing volunteers who make it happen, the generous donors who support the program, and the fantastic families who are taking part in it and helping develop a life long love of reading in their children.

In January, 30 local [Imagination Libraries](#) served 21,240 children in 105 communities all over Alaska. That means 39 percent of Alaska children under five receive their very own book every month.

Imagination Library in Alaska is more than just book delivery; it's a Get-the-Whole-Community-Involved-in-Reading-to-Kids Program! It's about empowering our communities to support their children and their education right from birth.

When a community takes on creation of their Imagination Library, it's also planning for more than books: family programs and storytimes to reinforce early learning and local fundraising to make it sustainable over time.

Draft budget cuts early learning completely

There are no funds 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.

Lovalaska
Pick.Click.Give.

**New this year – Contribute
through [Pick.Click.Give](#).**

Contributing to early literacy and learning is easier than ever. New this year, you can give to Best Beginnings through [Pick.Click.Give](#). It's an easy, painless way to support young children, their families, and our collective future.

Your support helps ensure all Alaska children begin school ready to succeed! Invest in Alaska's future by selecting Best Beginnings when you file for your PFD.



Best Beginnings in Governor Walker’s proposed budget for next year. The state’s limited PreK program and Parents as Teachers also came up zero in the budget released in December. If the proposed budget holds, Best Beginnings

would lose \$320,000 on top of the \$617,500 lost in 2015.

Like most Alaskans, the early learning community appreciates the severity of Alaska’s budget challenges. Yet the relatively small amount of money needed to sustain minimum support for early learning would yield outsized returns in the future. Even modest support is important because it sustains the momentum for early learning and early childhood development that has been building over the last eight years or so.

Best Beginnings and its partners will be speaking out in this legislative session. We hope you will join us.



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



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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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