



# BEST BEGINNINGS

## Alaska's Early Childhood Investment

**Jan – March 31, 2011**

### **1. Reading (:26)**

If you love to read, you don't pay attention to sounds or letters or how they come together. Yet reading is a complex process involving many skills. You have to hear sounds, recognize patterns, learn letters, connect parts, and understand that words have meaning. Reading doesn't just happen. It's a set of skills that must be taught. And that's our job.

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### **2. Magic of rhymes (:25)**

*Hey diddle, diddle, the cat and the fiddle, the cow jumped over the moon; the little dog laughed to see such sport, and the dish ran away with the spoon.*

Nursery rhymes are fun and they help children take steps to becoming readers. Rhymes teach children about the sound and patterns of language and word families – an important early literacy skill.

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### **3. Pig Latin (:30)**

Remember Pig Latin? Kids get a kick out of it and while adults might roll their eyes, Pig Latin actually requires a high degree of phonemic awareness.

Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear and manipulate the smallest units of sound. That's a critical skill for reading because the ability to pick sounds apart comes in real handy when learning unfamiliar words.

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### **4. The importance of sound (:29)**

Sounds have everything to do with reading. That's one reason it's so important to play, talk, and sing with babies and young children. Reading is complex.

Learning to read involves linking sounds . . . to letters . . . and groups of letters.

Connecting sounds to the written word is a challenge for all children. But the learning starts at birth, as babies hear and begin to process sound.

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