

## Early Childhood

Within the department there are two areas of focus: Head Start Grants and Early Learning Programs.

The 3 person team working with this area:

- issues grants to Head Start and Early Head Start grantees serving Alaskan children
- provides technical assistance and resources to grantees in the areas of early childhood education, school readiness, health, nutrition, early development and administration
- partners with other systems development initiatives to address specific issues for young children, birth to 5 years and their families, through the federally-funded Alaska Head Start Collaboration Project
- increases early literacy skills, family literacy skills, early learning skills and parenting skills for all populations in Alaska
- increases access to voluntary, affordable and quality early care and education
- establishes a sustainable early childhood literacy and learning system with accountability for outcomes