

February 15, 2012

Senator French  
Alaska State Legislature

Dear Senator French,

This letter is in support of establishing funding and state coordination for existing and new Parents as Teachers programs in communities throughout Alaska. AEYC Southeast Alaska is part of the thread Child Care Resource and Referral Network, serving early care and learning programs and assisting parents in finding child care in order to work. We are also the lead agency in our Best Beginnings Partnership, and coordinate the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in Southeast Alaska.

With support from Best Beginnings and the Alaska Children's Trust, we are piloting a small program of 20 parents in Juneau this year. The response from participating families has been overwhelmingly positive. It is appreciated by military families, single parents, first time parents, and two parents adjusting to the sometimes stressful job of parenting.

This evidence based program is well suited to delivery through Early Head Start programs, Infant Learning programs, child care programs, and in collaboration with elementary schools. In rural communities it may be the only early learning support available. In larger communities it helps reduce the isolation and connects parents to a positive social support system.

We appreciate your continued support in working toward this highly effective approach to strengthen families and promote kindergarten readiness.



Joy Lyon, M.A.  
Executive Director

