

From: [Heather Szundy](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Best Beginnings testimony
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 2:03:25 PM
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Dear Senators,

I am writing to encourage the Senate to fund Best Beginnings and the Imagination Library early literacy program. My family has received a book monthly from Best Beginnings since our son was born 2.5 years ago. We have read these books as well as books that we check out from the Anchorage Public Library on a daily basis since he was born at bedtime. The books he has received as well as the majority of books (especially early literacy book bags) available to check out at the library are all funded by Best Beginnings. At 2.5 years old, my son's vocabulary and comprehension are on par with some 4 to 4 1/2 year olds. He has advanced his language & communication skills directly through the books available with this program. He loves to "read". He picks up books to look at the pictures and words all by himself. The other night I caught him still awake in his room reading a book after bed time. I asked him what he was doing and he said, " I am looking for the firetruck in the book" as he thumbed through a color & picture matching book. I am confident that my son would not have such stellar linguistic skills at this age if it were not for Best Beginnings and its early child hood literacy programs, education and advocacy. This program helps build a brighter future in Alaska and fosters family values by providing a gift to kids and families that they can share while reading and bonding together. Please continue to fund this amazing program that wonderfully impacts my son, many of his friends, lower and upper class children as well as many many children statewide.

Kind Regards,

Heather Szundy

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