



February 28, 2018

Our hearts grow a size bigger every time a facility joins the Better Beginnings community and earns another star for quality. Thank you to the providers, teachers and families who make up our community. We hope you all had a wonderful Valentine's Day. If you haven't already, share pictures of how you celebrated February 14 in the classroom.

Sunflower Science



Our [Family Resource Library](#) is growing. With each resource, Arkansas families gain one more tool for inspiring discovery with a fun learning environment. This month we added an experiment that allows you to brighten your home with sunflowers. The hands-on, at-home activity lets your little one get their hands dirty and learn while they do it.

Remember when you were a kid and you put toothpicks in a potato, placed it in a jar with water and waited for it to sprout? Our newest experiment, [The Sunflower Jar](#) is a lot like that, except you need a few more items:

- Paper Towels
- Sunflower Seeds
- Dirt

Your child will learn about processes and a plant's life cycle as the seeds sprout and grow. Depending on the love and care your sunflowers receive, they could grow up to **12 feet tall!**

For the full list of instructions, [click here](#). Share pictures on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) with the hashtag, #TheSunflowerJar so we can follow along.

The Building Blocks of Science and Technology



Our newest curriculum, [Informational Books in the Preschool Classroom](#) is receiving another update, adding two new focus areas.

Promoting science and technology, the newest focus areas highlight the many types of tools we use every day and how things are built.

When you first hear tools, you might think of power tools. Along with those tools, preschoolers will also learn about classroom tools and kitchen tools:

- Crayons
- Paper Clips
- Playdough Hammer
- Spatula
- Cookie Cutters

Once they have an understanding of tools, the Building Blocks focus area will teach children how those tools are used to create things like ramps for boats, wheelchairs and moving heavy items.

[Click here](#) to learn more about our new **Tools** and **Building Blocks** focus areas.

For more information about the complete and supplemental curriculums provided, [click here](#).

So You Joined Better Beginnings, Now What?



Congratulations on becoming a licensed child care provider and joining the Better Beginnings community. You're on your way to providing Arkansas children with quality care. As you get ready to start welcoming Arkansas families, Better Beginnings wants to make sure you know about the resources available to you.

Did you know we have a [media center](#) full of videos ready to answer questions and share tips?

Our [Provider Help Series](#) has more than 20 videos, with topics ranging from having multiple locations to community awareness to rating FAQs. We have

videos featuring [various child care centers](#) with teachers and providers sharing tips for room organization, dramatic play and using manipulatives.

We want to help you create a solid foundation for providing quality care and early childhood education to Arkansas children.

Not a part of Better Beginnings yet? [Click here](#) for the information you need to get started down the path to quality.

For more information about the resources for providers, [click here](#).

To learn more about Better Beginnings and the resources available, [visit our website](#).

Stay in Touch with Better Beginnings

