



Sept 2017

**better beginnings**  
EVERY CHILD DESERVES OUR BEST

# QUALITY CHILD CARE MATTERS

EVERY CHILD DESERVES ACCESS TO QUALITY CARE

## Better Beginnings Needs You. 7 Reasons to Participate in Better Beginnings

**1 YOUR FAITH IS WELCOME:** Being a Better Beginnings facility does not mean you have to eliminate faith-based activities. Many of Arkansas’s highest quality (3-Star) child care providers are in faith-based organizations, churches and houses of worship.

**2 YOU VALUE QUALITY FOR CHILDREN:** Your program will provide a higher level of care. Better Beginnings program requirements are above the minimum licensing requirements; we want to recognize your level of care. The Find Child Care Website identifies participant’s Star level.



**3 PROMOTION:** Your facility can be promoted as high-achieving: new Better Beginnings banners show your community you are a 2-Star or 3-Star provider.

**4 RESOURCES FOR YOUR TEACHERS:** Better Beginnings helps child care staff and teachers prepare for their work with children through continuing education and a host of other free technical resources and professional development.

**5 WE COME TO YOU:** On-Site support for Better Beginnings 1- and 2-star providers is provided through a partnership with Arkansas State University Childhood Services (ASUCS). ASUCS staff offer on-site support and answer general questions about Better Beginnings in your facility.

**6 YOU GET PRIORITY:** Facilities serving the most at-risk children are needed. If you serve a high number of CCDF<sup>1</sup> children and families, you go to the top of the technical assistance list. If you serve infants and toddlers in areas with few providers, your program gets priority on-site assistance.

**7 FREE ONLINE RESOURCES & CLASSROOM TOOLS:** ARBetterBeginnings.com is a free online resource containing dozens of curriculum for providers, tools for teachers, classroom organization tips, informational videos, requirements and. The *Family Resource Library* is full of English and Spanish resources to share in your “family center.”



[ARBetterBeginnings.com](http://ARBetterBeginnings.com)

1-800-445-3316  
Visit the Better Beginnings website at [ARBetterBeginnings.com](http://ARBetterBeginnings.com)

<sup>1</sup> Child Care and Development Fund

## Better Beginnings: What's in it for your child care facility?

☑ **VOUCHER AUTHORIZATION:** 3-Star Better Beginnings providers get a two-year authorization for vouchers and a one-year authorization for star levels 1 and 2.

☑ **GRANT MONEY:** A Better Beginnings incentive grant is awarded upon initial certification and determined by star level achieved and capacity of your facility. Some approved uses of the grant are:

- Materials to enhance the learning environment
- Curriculum and professional resource books and materials
- Furniture and equipment
- Child health and developmental screening materials
- Family involvement and communication
- Professional development



☑ **HIGHER VOUCHER REIMBURSEMENT:** The state needs more quality programs to serve the children who are most at risk. Better Beginnings participation qualifies your child care program for a higher voucher reimbursement rate for 2-star and 3-star achievement. Rates increase with each star level achieved and amounts vary depending on a variety of factors. For additional rate information, visit <https://dhs.arkansas.gov/DCCECE/CCLAS/QualityRateCompare.aspx>.

☑ **TAX INCENTIVES FOR YOUR FAMILIES:** Families of children in 2-star and 3-star Better Beginnings programs are eligible for a state tax credit. Families who pay for child care at an Arkansas Better Beginnings program and meet the requirements for claiming the Federal Child Care Tax Credit, qualify for a refundable state tax credit. Note: The *Arkansas Early Childhood Tax Credit* differs from the Federal Child Care Tax Credit because it is refundable. If the credit is more than the taxes owed, the family may get a refund.



[ARBetterBeginnings.com](http://ARBetterBeginnings.com)

**Please note** Traveling Arkansas's Professional Pathways (TAPP) is switching to the Arkansas Development Registry on November 1, 2017.

Visit [PDRegistry.Arkansas.Gov](http://PDRegistry.Arkansas.Gov) to register or for more information.