



For more information:
Jason Brown, APR
(501) 515-0849 | call or text
JBrown@ComGroup.com

ARKANSAS CHILD CARE PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY IS MAY 9

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – (May 7, 2018) – [Better Beginnings](#), Arkansas’s quality rating and improvement system managed by the Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, proclaims **May 9 Arkansas Child Care Provider Appreciation Day**. Arkansas Child Care Provider Appreciation Day recognizes the influential men and women who educate and care for Arkansas children at licensed child care facilities throughout the state. Created by Better Beginnings, this statewide recognition is two days before National Child Care Provider Appreciation Day.

Arkansas boasts more than 2,100 licensed child care providers across its 75 counties. Teachers and staff in those programs lead children in social and emotional development, cognitive development, physical health, science and technology, and much more. Better Beginnings developed this day of recognition to demonstrate the direct impact the programs and the people providing them have on the development of Arkansas children.

“A child experiences the most brain and behavioral development within the first five years of their lives. It’s important they have a healthy environment to learn and grow during this stage of life,” said **Beverly Wright**, program manager, Child Care Licensing and Better Beginnings, Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education. “This day of appreciation is an opportunity for us to recognize the men and women who work every day to make sure the children of Arkansas receive the level of care and education they deserve.”

Better Beginnings invites Arkansans to show support for Arkansas’s licensed child care providers and teachers by saying “thank you” in person or virtually with the official hashtag **#ARProviderDay18**.

To learn more about Better Beginnings, and how to find a quality child care provider in your neighborhood, visit ARBetterBeginnings.com.

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About Better Beginnings:

Better Beginnings is Arkansas’s quality rating improvement system for child care, early education and school-age programs that have gone above and beyond the state minimum requirements. Better Beginnings is administered by the Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education. Better Beginnings connects Arkansas families with the information and care that helps children experience a safe, happy and healthy childhood.