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## ARKANSAS BETTER BEGINNINGS CHILD CARE PROVIDERS SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (February 19, 2021) – Ten Arkansas [Better Beginnings](#) child care providers in Washington County and Benton County are pursuing accreditation from the [National Association for Family Childcare](#) (NAFCC) in a pilot program supported by the University of Arkansas Early Care and Education Projects, Family Child Care Network. The following Northwest Arkansas providers have been accepted as participants:

- **Linda Adams**, Siloam Springs
- **Carolyn Carney**, Farmington
- **Krista Houston**, Huntsville
- **Mary Line**, Bentonville
- **Linda Luney**, Pea Ridge
- **Sue Meek**, Fayetteville
- **Michelle Mendoza**, Garfield
- **Rita Neve**, Booneville
- **Terri McGuire**, Bentonville
- **Lisa Wood**, Prairie Grove

The Northwest Arkansas child care providers participating in the pilot program are required to earn 90 additional hours of professional development specifically focused on the accreditation process. The program will take 12 months to complete.

"High-quality child care and early education set the stage for how well our children learn. Better Beginnings commends these Arkansas child care providers for making an intentional career choice to increase the quality of care and education in their learning environments," said Arkansas Better Beginnings Program Manager Dawn Jeffrey. "We as parents, child care providers, educators and citizens have a responsibility to make sure all our children have the very best experiences they can have."

The National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) is a nationwide nonprofit organization that promotes high-quality child care. NAFCC relies on the input of parents and families to develop and strengthen the professional development of child care professionals.

Accreditation from the National Association for Family Child Care is the highest ranking of quality child care, measuring safety, professional and business practices, the learning environment, developmental learning activities and interactive relationships.

Upon completion and analysis of the pilot program, the intention is to offer the program to child care providers in other areas of the state.

For more information on finding quality child care in Arkansas or to learn more about Better Beginnings, follow their social media channels on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) or visit their website at [arbetterbeginnings.com](http://arbetterbeginnings.com).

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### About Arkansas 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.