



AUGUST 31, 2018

NEWS BULLETIN | Arkansas Outstanding Early Childhood Professional of the Year Announced



In case you didn't hear the news last month, **Julie Barber** was named the *Arkansas Outstanding Early Childhood Professional of the Year*. Selected by the **Arkansas Department of Human Services' Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education (DCCECE)**, Barber will serve as an Early Childhood Ambassador for the year. Her duties will include serving on DCCECE committees and representing early childhood educators in the media.

[Click here](#) to read the full release. Keep an eye out for a feature highlighting Julie's experience as an early childhood professional in Arkansas.

PROVIDERS | You're a 3-Star Provider & You've Received a Toolkit from Us. Now What?



If you didn't see the announcement, we began distributing 684 Better Beginnings branded boxes to all 3-star providers last month. We built these provider toolkits to give a little something extra to the Better Beginnings programs providing the highest level of care to Arkansas children. Use the 3-Star Provider Toolkit to communicate with the families of your program about the benefits of Better Beginnings.

This hefty package includes:

- Six customizable English-language and Spanish-language posters to hang throughout your facility, promoting your status as a 3-star Better Beginnings

- program
- The complete English and Spanish language *Family Resource Libraries* for sharing with families to boost early learning and development at home

With the goal of building and strengthening your relationship with the families you serve, the toolkit should shrink over time until you've emptied the toolkit by sharing all the contents. Don't worry, every resource in the toolkit is available on the Better Beginnings website. All you need to do is download the PDF and hit print.

With nearly 30 resources covering topics like behavioral development, play is learning, math and more, these toolkits will affect your students' learning and development. With nearly 700 toolkits to deliver, they are being delivered in groups, sorted alphabetically. Once yours arrives, share a post on the [Better Beginnings Facebook Page](#) and use **#3StarToolKit**.

To learn more about becoming a Better Beginnings provider and earning three stars, visit our [section for providers](#).

POLL | We Want to Know...

Our monthly poll is an opportunity to tell us how you put Better Beginnings to work in your community. Our latest question asked, “**How likely are you to use early childhood teaching tools and resources in Spanish?**” and so far, more than 30 percent of you said you're likely to use Spanish-language resources.

If you haven't already, check out the [Biblioteca de recursos en Español](#). These resources are available at no cost to you.

Please take the time to click the link below to fill it out! It takes less than one minute, and your answers help us better serve you with the information and resources needed to help Arkansas's children learn and grow.

[Arkansas Child Care Survey](#)

THANK YOU | Better Beginnings Grows Community

Since the start of 2018, 35 facilities have either joined Better Beginnings or moved up in star levels. Some have joined Better Beginnings and gone straight to three stars!

Of the 35 facilities:

- 25 are new to Better Beginnings
- 5 earned their second star
- 5 earned three star status

We are thankful for the child care providers and teachers across the state who work every day to provide the highest quality child care and early learning to Arkansas children.

If you are interested in moving up in star ranking, [click here](#).

Help us welcome and congratulate the most recent facilities on reaching 3-star status.

Thanks for your commitment to Arkansas's children.

Benton - [Childcare Network #189](#)

Blytheville - [Blytheville Kindergarten Center ABC School](#)

Conway - [Little Scholars Academy of Conway](#)

Greers Ferry - [West Side Elementary ABC Preschool](#)

Hot Springs - [Hot Springs Child Care Center III](#)

Mountain Home - [Ozark Opportunities Inc. Early Head Start Mtn. Home](#)

Newark - [Cedar Ridge Early Childhood Center](#)

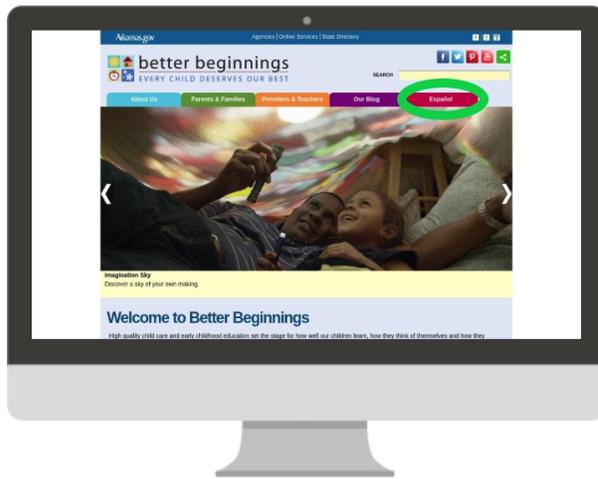
Oark - [Oark ABC Preschool](#)

Prairie Grove - [Lisa Wood DCFH](#)

Rogers - [Peacekids Learning Center & Pre-School](#)

Rogers - [Kindergrove](#)

FAMILIES | Using the Tools Provided



Every member of the Better Beginnings community plays a key role in the care and education Arkansas children receive. If you have been to our [website](#), you are familiar with the [resources](#), [curriculum](#) and [information](#) available to providers, teachers and families.

In a continuous effort to ensure the parents and guardians of all of Arkansas's children have the tools to

help them grow up strong, healthy and with an eagerness to learn, we launched the [Español section](#) of the Better Beginnings website. We understand the value of the resources and information on our website, as well as how important it is to access the information quickly and easily.

Español contains the *Preparing my Child for Life* resources and Spanish-language *Family Resource Library*. As new resources are created for the *Family Resource Library*, a Spanish-language counterpart will be created.

To learn more about the Spanish-language resources available, [click here](#).

EARLY LEARNING | Learning Through Play Every Day

Let the calendar serve as inspiration to show your child new experiences while teaching them new skills. Pair the observances below with resources from our [Family Resource Library](#) and [Biblioteca de recursos en español](#), and you'll discover a host of fun ways to celebrate upcoming holidays while weaving in a little math, discovery, safety and outdoor learning all at the same time.

AUGUST
[Family Fun Month](#)



[Get Ready for Kindergarten Month](#)
[National Back to School Month](#)

SEPTEMBER

[Baby Safety Month](#)

[Library Card Sign Up Month](#)

September 3: [We hope the Better Beginnings community has a safe and fun Labor Day weekend with your family and](#)

[friends!](#)

September 6: [Read a Book Day](#)

September 9: [Grandparents Day](#)

September 15: [Online Learning Day](#)

September 16: [Play-Doh Day](#)

September 20: [Pepperoni Pizza Day](#)

September 25: [Math Storytelling Day](#)

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

Stay in Touch with 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.

