



January 22, 2018

The first month of the new year is almost over, and we are looking forward to the new facilities, families, resources and curriculum 2018 will bring. If you haven't made the decision to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), we hope you will to receive the latest about upcoming radio and TV segments and print and digital coverage. We also like to announce facilities new to the Better Beginnings community and we ask you to help us welcome them.

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## Science Power



Whether you make the best playdough snake in town or can create masterpieces, you are teaching your child science with a childhood classic. Before you ask how, it's important to know [children learn through play](#), which is why this hands-on activity is fun for you and your child.

So how does this five-ingredient activity teach your child about science? It boosts their curiosity, creativity and imagination through:

- Turning liquids into solids
- Mixing colors
- Throwing, dunking and rolling the playdough
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[Click here](#) for the directions and release the power of playdough today.

For more ways to add science at home, [click here](#).

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[Better Beginnings](#), a program of the Arkansas Department of Human Services, works throughout Arkansas to improve the quality of child care and early childhood education.



because [every child deserves quality child care](#) and a quality education to help them succeed.

As 2018 moves on, we look forward to welcoming the licensed child care facilities that want to provide every child with the best quality care to help them succeed.

If you're a family child care home, center-based care or providing school-age care, [click here](#) for the checklist, rules, application and other tools needed. [Click here](#) for the Strengthening Families® requirements and information.

Have questions about tax credits for families or staff training, check out our [provider help video series](#).

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## School is in Session



Calling all families, providers and teachers. It's almost time to register the little ones turning 5 years old by August 1 for Kindergarten. Many schools throughout the state hold registration through February,

but it's important to check your local school for important registration deadlines.

If you haven't looked at it yet, now is a great time to get a copy of our [Kindergarten Readiness Checklist](#). We encourage child care providers to share this resource with families of little ones as young as 3 years old.

The Arkansas Early Childhood Commission adopted updates to the Kindergarten Readiness Checklist just this past year in 2017.

This free checklist is broken into nine categories, including:

- Language Development
- Social and Emotional Development
- Mathematical Thinking
- Social Studies

[Click here](#) to get your own copy today to share with families, or to see if your little one is ready for Kindergarten.

To learn more about the resources available to families, visit our [Family](#)

[Resource Library](#). En [Español](#).

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

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**Stay in Touch with Better Beginnings**

