



June 25, 2018

SUMMER | Safety



Sweet, sweet summertime has finally arrived! And with it comes pool days, lake days and summer daze. Before you hit the road with your family this summer, make sure you talk about the [family's safety rules](#).

Download from the Better Beginnings website the PDF, [10 Family Rules for Safety](#), and share it with family and friends who might be

looking after your children or sharing your vacation or summer activities.

Whether you're on the water, at a sporting event or on ATVs, [check out these tips for summer safety from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#). From all of us at Better Beginnings, we hope our community has a wonderful summer!

DEVELOPMENT | One Milestone at a Time

Like the spots on a giraffe, or a fingerprint, all children are different. Since there isn't a one-size-fits-all guide to raising happy and eager learners, Better Beginnings has helpful resources for parents on childhood development that are easy to access on a smartphone, computer or other device.

Visit [ArBetterBeginnings.com](#), click on the [Parents & Families](#) tab and look for [Preparing my Child for Life](#). There you will find milestone resources and tip sheets divided by categories of development into Infant, Toddler and Preschool sections.



Within each section are dozens of resources that address everything from sleep habits to snack habits. All resources are now available in Spanish.

For even more milestone fun, look for the [DIY How-To Videos](#) playlist on the Better Beginnings [YouTube](#) channel for imaginative activities to boost learning and development during your little one's first five years.

POLL | We want to Know...

Each month, we will have a new question just for you, a member of our Better Beginnings community. Your answers will help us better serve you with the information and resources needed to help Arkansas's children learn and grow.

If you miss a question one month, we'll make sure you get to answer it the next.

This month, we want to know:

[Which digital media platform do you prefer for learning about early childhood development?](#)

Thank you! Be on the lookout for poll results and another question next month.

PROVIDERS | New Tools to Connect with Families



Extra! Extra! New tool kit available for all Better Beginnings 3-star providers! Earning a 3-Star Better Beginnings quality rating represents the highest level of achievement for licensed child care providers in Arkansas.

To recognize this achievement and to say “thank you,” Better Beginnings has created

a brand new tool kit to help those providers communicate and connect with current and prospective families. It doesn't slice and dice, and you can't hang a picture or hammer a nail with the new *Better Beginnings 3-Star Provider Tool Kit*, but it's so loaded with function, utility and useful tools that it sure feels like you could.

Shipping directly to all 3-star Better Beginnings providers during July and August, the new Tool Kits include:

- 3 English language posters
- 3 Spanish language posters
- 1 blank label sheet for personalizing your poster
- The complete English and Spanish language Family Resource Libraries

As new facilities join the 3-star provider ranks, they too, will receive one of the new Tool Kits.

Created with the relationship between providers and parents in mind, the kit can become a communication tool between parents and the individuals caring for and teaching their children. Child care providers can share the various resources with parents to encourage learning at home and reinforce what staff are teaching during the day.

The new tool kits will be shipped to existing 3-star providers alphabetically by facility name. Facilities will have the option for personalization via email and through their online Star Kit. To learn more about the free resources available to parents, [visit ARBetterBeginnings.com](#).

SCIENCE | PARENTS: Rain, Rain is Here to Play

As infants grow into toddlers, they begin to ask a lot of questions about how things happen or why things are a certain way. If your little one has you stuck on how to explain where rain comes from, our latest learning resource is one rainstorm you won't sing away.



[Rainstorm in a Jar](#) calls for three ingredients you probably already have in your home: shaving cream (child safe), food coloring and water. You'll also need a clear jar or glass container, one-to-four small cups and a ¼ teaspoon or eye dropper.

This fun experiment is a visual way to teach your child what happens when a cloud (shaving cream) is full of water (food coloring): it rains!

TIP: Since food coloring can stain, cover your surface before you begin. [Haga clic aquí](#) para la versión en español. To find more fun tools for teaching science at home, [click here](#). [En Español](#).

EARLY LEARNING | Learning Through Play Every Day

Let the calendar serve as inspiration to show your child new experiences and teach at the same time. Pair these 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.

JUNE

[Great Outdoors Month](#)

[Safety Month](#)

JULY

[Picnic Month](#)

July 4: [From all of us at Better Beginnings, we hope you all have a fun and safe Fourth of July!](#)

July 7: [Father/Daughter Take a Walk Day](#)

July 9: [Sugar Cookie Day](#)

July 22: [Parents' 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.

