



May 22, 2018

There's a growing trend for new parents, replacing cards and gifts with books for their children. In honor of **National Get Caught Reading Month**, this month's *Buzz* is full of tips and resources for raising a reader. We even have a [Pinterest board](#) with more than 30 pins dedicated to literacy. And we can't forget the new feature we're adding each month – a list of national holidays to help inspire learning and the resources to help you get started.



Raising a Reader



Ever wonder how to instill a love of reading in your children?

Thanks to the free [Family Resource Library](#), available to all Arkansas families, you can [start raising a reader](#) the moment your little one is born.

Separated into three stages, [baby's first year](#), [toddlers](#) and [preschoolers](#), the [Raising a Reader](#) resources help you teach your children [reading is fun](#).

As your children grow, reading doesn't just mean understanding the words printed on the page. It can be how your child interacts with books. For newborns, playing with high-contrast books doesn't teach reading, but it helps develop their vision. Chewing on books or patting pages develops an understanding for the size, shape and texture of objects. For

toddlers and preschoolers, they'll insist you read their favorite book right away and retell you their favorite stories.

For more ways to raise a reader, [visit our free literacy section](#). Or check out our [literacy board](#) on Pinterest.

Emotional Understanding Through Literature



Until children are old enough to understand when to express certain emotions, they observe adults.

When children fall, bump into something or touch an object they aren't used to, they look for another person's reaction and try to replicate it.

While it might be hard for a parent or guardian to not react negatively when a child falls, it's part of the learning process for young children. Using the free resources and curricula provided by Better Beginnings, parents and providers can help children develop behavioral skills and an understanding of emotions.

At home, families can use the [behavior section](#) within the [Family Resource Library](#). It contains resources to help parents raise confident and cooperative children.

For more ways to boost your child's behavioral development, visit our [Preparing My Child for Life](#) section. [En Español](#).

One, Two, Buckle My Shoe



A single story, either full of text or full of pictures, can teach a child about science, families and following rules.

Through classics like *Baa, Baa, Black Sheep*, *Corduroy* and *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, our [Story-a-Month](#) curriculum pairs activities with childhood favorites.

With the rhyming style common to *Mother Goose*, children learn about patterns, tempo and repetition. As a result, teachers are developing the child's math skills. As children develop an understanding of patterns and the ability to see them in everyday activities, they are able to make predictions or draw conclusions about how a game or task will end.

To learn more about the free curricula available to providers and teachers, [click here](#).

Learning Through Play Every Day

[Great Outdoors Month](#)
[Safety Month](#)

June 1 – [Go Barefoot Day](#)

June 6 – Running 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.