

February 2019

FAMILIES | Play is for Learning...

Better Beginnings has new videos and activities to help your child learn through play this month and throughout the year. Check out our latest additions to the Family Resource Library.



Play is Learning. Find out how.

Have an interactive experience that shows you how children learn from play.



Shape Sorting Challenge

Help your child learn math through fun everyday activities. Take it easy. Have fun! Find out how.

This month's featured resource...

Simon Says ROLL

Simon Says goes big with this easy-to-make learning game the whole family can enjoy. These oversized game pieces add to the drama and fun of the game.

How to Play the Race

- STEP 1** Determine the start and finish lines.
- STEP 2** Player 1: roll the die.
- STEP 3** Ref: run to the die. Count out loud the number of pips (dots) on the top side of the die. Show the players the Number Card that matches 0 - 6.
- STEP 4** Ref: show the top card on Action Card stack to the player. Say, "Simon Says," and read the number and the action.
- STEP 5** If the player "hits" before the ref says, "Simon Says," the player has to take a step backward.
- STEP 6** The ref's job is now to retrieve the die and hand it to the next player.
- STEP 7** Repeat until one player reaches the finish line.

Simon Says Roll

One person is the Referee (Ref). The Ref plus two players make the game a race. Use the die to determine how many steps the player will take.

One player plus the referee can still have fun playing. It's a great way to get some exercise and learn about math. In this case, keep score of how many times each number comes out on top.

Click here to see the Kindergarten Readiness Checklist.

better beginnings
EVERY CHILD DESERVES OUR BEST

Instructions and action card suggestions are on the next page. >>>

Click here to visit our Resource Library. You'll find activities and tips to help you prepare your child for life.

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Simon Says Roll Math Activity

Simon Says goes big with this easy-to-make learning game. Simon Says Roll helps children practice counting as they play.

While playing the game, children learn to recognize numerals and groups of objects. The skills gained during Simon Says Roll will prepare a child for kindergarten.

Don't miss the fun! Experiments should always have parent or teacher participation.

Try it out

NEWS | Providing High Quality Care to Arkansas's Children

Quality child care plays an important role in Arkansas's economic development. Accessibility to quality child care across the state is necessary for parents to obtain or retain employment, maintain their household, and it lays the foundation for a bright future for all Arkansans.



[Find quality child care options](#)

THANK YOU | Better Beginnings Grows Quality Community

Better Beginnings is focused on making quality child care more accessible to families of young children across Arkansas. More high quality access means more kids that are better prepared for kindergarten. In the last reporting period, Better Beginnings welcomed 2 new providers to the community of quality providers:

BOONEVILLE - Genesis Academy

HOLIDAY ISLAND - The Learning Center of North Arkansas

The following providers have been promoted to the 3-star level:

BENTONVILLE - The Children's Hour

BOONEVILLE - ARVAC Head Start

CLARKSVILLE - ARVAC Head Start

COAL HILL - ARVAC Head Start

DANVILLE - ARVAC Head Start

DARDANELLE - ARVAC Head Start

HECTOR - ARVAC Head Start

MORRILTON - ARVAC Head Start

OZARK - ARVAC Head Start

PARIS - ARVAC Head Start

PERRY - ARVAC Head Start

RUSSELLVILLE - ARVAC Head Start/Russellville Crawford

RUSSELLVILLE - ARVAC Head Start/Russellville Elmira

WALDRON - ARVAC Head Start

If you are a Better Beginnings provider and are interested in moving up in star ranking, click [here](#).

PROVIDERS | Check Your Mail



If families have paid for child care at an Arkansas Better Beginnings 2-star or 3-star program and meet the requirements for claiming the Federal Child Care Tax Credit, they may qualify for a refundable state tax credit.

Be on the lookout for the *Arkansas Early Childhood Certification tax form AR 1000EC*. This form was recently sent by postal mail or email to Better Beginnings child care programs that are certified at 2-star and 3-star levels. The email version has been made electronic to allow you to complete your information before providing the form to parents.

Nutrition and Physical Activity

Spring Conference



When: Saturday, April 6, 2019

Where: UCA Campus Conway

Brewer-Hegeman Conference Center

Time: Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.

Conference time is 9:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Morning and Afternoon Breakout Sessions

*******Lunch will be provided*******

This conference is for any licensed provider who wishes to further their education or is working toward or advancing in Better Beginnings.

This conference meets the nutrition and physical activity component.

Register on PDR- space is limited

Sponsored by The Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education
and Child Care Aware of Northcentral AR

Questions/Information—Call 870-793-9883

To learn more about
Better Beginnings
and the resources available:

[Visit our website](#)

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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.

