



better beginnings
EVERY CHILD DESERVES OUR BEST

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Better Beginnings Offers Quality Child Care with 3-Star Facilities

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – (June 25, 2018) – The Arkansas Department of Human Services' Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education (DCCECE) implemented [Better Beginnings](#), Arkansas's quality rating and improvement system, in 2009 to ensure all Arkansas children were provided safe, high quality environments to boost growth and development. Since then, 1,425 of the 2,000-plus licensed child care facilities in the state are Better Beginnings facilities; 49 percent are 3-star facilities¹.

Better Beginnings child care providers are rated star levels: 1-star, 2-star and 3-star. Each level has a set of requirements for administrators, staff and facility. The higher the star level, the greater the requirements for training and education hours, as well as the quality of curriculum plans developed. The requirements for Better Beginnings are also specific to the type of child care facility: [family child care homes](#), [center-based care](#) and [school age care](#).

3-Star Requirements include:

- At least 25 hours of continued education each year per staff member – 10 hours more than the state minimum.
- Administrators must earn 135 hours of early childhood education and administration training and education prior to becoming an administrator.
- 3-star facilities are required to provide at least three interest centers in each classroom, as well as develop written curriculum plans and daily activities with learning goals.
- Implementation of [Strengthening Families™](#), a research-informed approach to increase family strengths, enhances child development and reduces the likelihood of child abuse and neglect.

“Every child deserves quality child care and a quality learning environment,” said **Beverly Wright, Better Beginnings Program Manager**. “While all of our facilities strive to provide quality to all of their students, our 3-star facilities offer Arkansas families the comfort of knowing their children are receiving the highest level of care and early learning every time they leave their children in the care of someone outside of their families.”

To find a three-star Better Beginnings provider in your area, try our [Find Child Care Tool](#) at ARBetterBeginnings.com.

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¹Source: Arkansas Department of Human Services' Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education's Find Child Care tool.

About 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 connects Arkansas families with the information and care that helps children experience a safe, happy and healthy childhood.