

# better beginnings



# for Providers buzz

Department of Human Services Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education

## OCTOBER 2020



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EVERY CHILD DESERVES OUR BEST

CELEBRATING OUR **10<sup>TH</sup>** ANNIVERSARY

## A SPECIAL NOTE FROM DAWN JEFFREY



### Providers,

What an exciting month! We just celebrated our **10th anniversary**.

And we wouldn't be here without you. So, thank you for all you do, providers. We are always proud, but our anniversary makes us EXTRA proud. **Each and every one of you have helped us reach this milestone.**

Ten years! A **DECADE** of improving quality child care in Arkansas. A **DECADE** of preparing more of our kiddos for kindergarten.

Better Beginnings wasn't born overnight. Our achievements come from **MANY** passionate Arkansas educators pouring their hearts and minds into the **MANY** moving parts of Better Beginnings over **MANY** years.

And why do we do it? Well that's simple. **We do it to give EVERY child in Arkansas a better start in life. And we'll keep doing it, because every child deserves our best.**

We might be wrapping up our anniversary month, but I encourage you to follow along as we **celebrate** over the next year.

Why celebrate so long? Well, we've done A LOT. Throughout this newsletter you'll see highlights of some of our **proudest achievements** and we'll share **10 of our favorite resources**.

If that's not enough to convince you, scroll down to the bottom to see what **Governor Hutchinson says about it!** That should do the trick.



**Dawn Jeffrey M.S.E.**  
Division of Early Child Care and Early Childhood Education  
Program Manager for Better Beginnings

## THANK YOU PROVIDERS!

We had several providers help us make our celebration extra magical by submitting countdown videos.

Check out this special message from **Kozmic Kids**.



**STAY TUNED!** Over the next year, we will be featuring all of our provider countdown videos in our Provider Buzz Newsletters.

[SEE MORE PROVIDER COUNTDOWN VIDEOS HERE.](#)

## BETTER BEGINNINGS STAR APPROVALS

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 are better prepared for kindergarten.

The following programs are now **2-star** Better Beginnings providers:

- **CONWAY** - Ms. Carrie's Day School
- **EUDORA** - KIDS R US

- **LITTLE ROCK** - Christian Scholars Learning Academy
- **JONESBORO** - Courtney's Castle
- **NORTH LITTLE ROCK** - Alexander Turner Early Head Start

The following programs are now **3-star** Better Beginnings providers:

- **JONESBORO** - Montessori School of Jonesboro, Inc.
- **CALICO ROCK** - Calico Rock SD Little Pirates Preschool
- **CENTER RIDGE** - Lil Hawk
- **LITTLE ROCK** - Family Development Center

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

## 10 MILESTONES IN 10 YEARS

1. The number of licensed child care providers in Arkansas has increased **from 700 to 1,989**.
2. Our Family Resource Library holds **over 40** hands-on learning and behavior development resources for families.
3. There are multiple tools like a child care checklist, to **help parents choose child care**.
4. There are **11 behavior and development resources** for children up to the age of five.
5. Each math, science and literacy resource is available in **Spanish**.
6. **1,346 of the 1,989 licensed** Arkansas providers are Better Beginnings participants.
7. **690+** providers have achieved the 3-star quality rating from Better Beginnings—that's **OVER HALF** of Better Beginnings providers performing at the **highest level**.
8. We supported Arkansas providers through the past 6 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, **helping over half of Better Beginnings providers to remain open**.
9. Redefined quality child care and educated Arkansas families on its importance by encouraging a **"Learning through Play"** approach.
10. Made it possible for Arkansas parents and families to search for child care **based on quality ranking**.



GOVERNOR HUTCHINSON PRAISES BETTER BEGINNINGS  
AS WE CELEBRATE OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY



This year, **we celebrate our 10th anniversary**. Though it's our birthday, it is a celebration for **all Arkansas families**. We are celebrating a **DECADE of improving the quality of early childcare in Arkansas**. It is a reminder that EVERY Arkansas child deserves the very best early education experience.

For the past decade, that has been our focus, and the decades to come won't be any different. **This is about shaping our future.**

We won't stop, *because every child deserves our best.*

Check out this special video message from Governor Asa Hutchinson.

[SEE MORE ANNIVERSARY VIDEOS HERE.](#)

## WHAT IS BETTER BEGINNINGS?

[Visit our website to find out.](#)

OR, check us out on social media.



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.

