

AUGUST 2020



## A NOTE FROM BETTER BEGINNINGS PROGRAM MANAGER DAWN JEFFREY



Parents and Families,

The end of summer...what a  
bummer!

Cheesy, I know, but I just can't pass up an opportunity for a good rhyme! Really, though. Summer's end is the worst! The least Mother Nature could do is bless us with some **cooler weather**. *Am I right?!*

Well, hang in there, ladies and gents. Back to School means **Fall** is close! Just think, we're only about a month away from **pumpkins, scattered leaves** and

**bonfires!**

I'm not sure if you can tell, but fall is one of my favorite times of the year. This fall is a **SPECIAL** one for [Better Beginnings](#).

**WE'RE TURNING 10!** Can you believe it? For one **WHOLE** decade, we have been working to connect Arkansas families to [quality child care](#). [Math](#). [Literacy](#). [Science](#). [Play](#). We've shared it all!

We know, it's not quite the **BEST** time for a **birthday party**, but that won't stop us. Make sure you stay tuned, **this October will be a celebration you won't want to miss!**

Help us make our 10th birthday the best one yet by completing the poll at the bottom of this newsletter.

All the best,

*Dawn Jeffrey*

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

## ATTENTION PARENTS!



Parents, did you know you might qualify for **child care financial assistance**? If you are an **essential worker**, chances are you do, regardless of your income eligibility!

Submit your application  
here.

## RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT | MATH

## Let's Make Music!

Music is math!



**Box Guitar**

Step 1: Decorate a shoe or tissue box.  
Step 2: Cut a 3-4 inch square or circle hole in side.  
Step 3: Wrap 4-6 rubber bands around the box over the hole.  
Step 4: Insert a pencil at each end of the hole under the rubber bands. They make it sound better!  
Step 5: Strum away!

**TP Tube Kazoo**

Step 1: Decorate a toilet paper tube.  
Step 2: Cut a piece of wax paper about an inch longer than the bottom of the tube.  
Step 3: Cover one end of the tube with the wax paper and secure it with rubber bands.  
Step 4: Blow through the open end and start up the kazoo-sounding band!

**Materials:**

- Toilet paper tube
- Wax paper
- Stringing paper or clear contact paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers
- Stapler
- Rubber bands
- TP (may need adult help)
- Shoe or tissue box
- Dry food: peas, beans, rice or popcorn

**Steps:**

- Decorate a wrapping paper or paper towel tube.
- Cut a piece of aluminum foil the length of the tube.
- Space the foil to make a long snake.
- Cut the top of the foil snake.
- Stretch one rubber band to cover one end of the tube and secure it with a rubber band.
- Repeat the foil snake. Then fix or unfastened foods into the tube.
- Cut the second rubber band to close the other end.
- Stretch the foil snake from one end to the other to make a magical rain sound.

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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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## Sorting Sacks and Similar Stuff



Sorting shapes and colors helps children learn to organize by "name" and "difference." Organizing is a skill that is basic to learning math. It also helps children understand how objects in their own world relate to each other.

Sorting can be a fun activity to do together. Use sacks, baskets or boxes with colorful objects to indicate how to sort.

Your child learns about colors as you take turns putting "the blue bags in the sack with the blue circles." Using the words helps your child learn while you play.

When you share sorting activities, your child learns:

- colors, numbers and shapes
- how words relate to your toys and talk about them
- hand-eye coordination
- fine motor skills
- problem-solving when deciding which container to use

By sharing activities with your child, you show how important he or she is to you. You share a conversation. You are building your relationship.

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## Talk Math

Introduce your child to math through every day conversation. Here are some ways to talk math while you work and play. Children learn by repetition. Sing, Talk, Play, Repeat. Make learning fun. They'll want to do it again and again! Talk math. It's a smart start!

**Start at infancy:** Sing songs and recite rhymes that use numbers.

**Talk math:** Make comparisons such as "big" and "tall," "more" and "less." "Heavy" and "light" introduce the concept of volume and mass. "Long" and "short" teach measurement.

**Play sorting games:** Put all the balls in one basket and the trucks in a box. Learning "name" and "difference" is a math skill.

**Do laundry:** Children learn about colors and sizes by sorting laundry with you.

**Count it out:** Count out loud when serving snacks. Make comparisons such as, "You have more crackers than I do."

**Make cookies:** Your child will learn about measurement by counting eggs and cups of flour.

**Add and subtract:** Count the books in your yard. Talk about how the number changes when you file away.

**Keep time:** Use a timer, clock or stopwatch to measure how long the cookies take.

**Measure heights:** Use a tape measure or yardstick to compare your child's height to your own. Make a game of measuring other things around the house.

**What is your child learning?**

- Math concepts
  - How to describe objects by shape or color
  - How numbers relate to the world
  - About order and sequence
- Awareness of measurement and volume
- Understands units of measure
- Recognizes units of measure

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Sharing music with your child is a great way to practice math—and he won't even know it! Make these [DIY instruments](#) and play a memory game as you both strum and hum along. This is an easy way to practice counting and patterns!

Sorting shows him how to organize various objects. It teaches him about shapes, colors, numbers and more! You can even do it with simple items you probably have around the house. Check out this [sorting sack](#) resource and try it today!

Let's talk about math. Literally, **TALK** about it! When you do laundry, use words like big, small, heavy and light. Let her help you measure ingredients when you make cookies. Measure heights. Learn more with this [Talk Math](#) resource!

Find more resources in our Family Resource Library here.

# LOOKING, LISTENING AND LEAPING FOR LITERACY



## FEATURES LOOKING, LISTENING AND LEAPING FOR LITERACY!

Looking, Listening and Leaping for Literacy! A Note from Better Beginnings Program Manager Dawn Jeffrey A, B, C...1, 2, 3, Raising a Reader is so easy! Okay, let's get real. I..

July 31, 2020

Have you seen our latest article in [Peekaboo NWA](#)?

August was all about **Literacy**. Did you know literacy skills are a huge component of [prepping your child for kindergarten](#)?

Check out this article to learn how you can help your child develop and improve literacy skills. **It's easier than you think, really!**

Read [Looking, Listening and Leaping for Literacy](#) today!

Find more Literacy resources here.

# GUESS WHO HAS A BIRTHDAY COMING UP?!



10  
years

Attention Better Beginnings  
community!

We turn 10 this fall! Stay tuned, this  
celebration is one you won't want to miss.

But first, we need your help. Can you  
take a few minutes to answer the  
questions below? We want to continue  
improving the quality of child care throughout  
the state, and your answers will help!

Every opinion matters!

## ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO HELP BETTER BEGINNINGS BE GREAT!

1. Does your child attend a Better Beginnings child care facility?

Yes

Select

No

Select

2. Do you use the resources we share in the Better Beginnings Buzz?

Yes

Select

No

Select

3. What kind of resources do you use the most?

Math

Select

Science

Select

Literacy

Select

Play

Select

ALL the above

Select

## 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.

