

MAY 2020

Thank You!

A NOTE FROM BETTER BEGINNINGS PROGRAM MANAGER DAWN JEFFREY



Providers,

Because one time simply isn't enough, we want to continue to say **THANK YOU**. Thank you to the centers who have kept their doors open through the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you to those who closed and re-opened in an effort to keep your client families safe and healthy. Thank you to those who are planning a slow, cautious re-open. Regardless of your circumstances, we are grateful for every single provider out there.

As some restrictions are lifted and our communities start to open again, we urge you to review your

current plans and policies and modify them as needed. This is the **new normal**, and it won't happen overnight. Things like **pickup and dismissal, food preparation, cleaning procedures** and more will look different. Follow Arkansas pandemic procedures to keep your center functioning safely and efficiently:

- **Drop-off and pick-up** is to take place outside the facility only
- Develop a **screening process** for anyone who enters the center
- Staff must wear **face masks**
- Expect an increase in child absenteeism--**consider reviewing your attendance policies**

- Group will be limited to 10 people or less, **this includes classrooms**
- Family-style meals will not be served, **children will receive individual snacks and meals**

[See the full list of child care pandemic procedures from Arkansas Department of Human Services here.](#)

Hang in there, guys. **We are in this together.**



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

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PANDEMIC PROCEDURES



Implement **social distancing** guidelines in existing routines. For example, move drop-off and pickup outside and limit group sizes to 10 people or less.



Have a **screening process** in place for those allowed to enter the facility. This includes staff, persons with legal authority, therapists, parents & legal guardians, etc.



Post **informational graphics** on hand-washing in all bathrooms. **Please follow Section 1100 regarding health and hand washing in the Minimum Licensing Requirements.**

Arkansas Child Care Center Pandemic Procedures.

Download printable posters here.

NATIONAL CHILDCARE PROVIDER DAY A DAY TO CELEBRATE **YOU!**

Earlier this month we celebrated **National Childcare Provider Day**. We are grateful for each of you EVERY day, but today's circumstances make us **especially grateful** for your hard work and dedication. **You pour your hearts into loving and leading our kids**. Your roles are **crucial** to their early learning and development.

Thank you for shaping our future.

CHECK OUT THIS SPECIAL VIDEO, JUST FOR YOU.



THANK YOU BETTER BEGINNINGS 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 are better prepared for kindergarten.

The following program is now a **1-star** Better Beginnings provider:

- **BOONEVILLE** - Mrs. Shelby's Stepping Stones Academy

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

- **LITTLE ROCK** - Kingz Kidz Academy
- **SHERWOOD** - Sylvan Hills Learning Center
- **REDFIELD** - Tiny Little Blessings Learning Center & Child Care

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

SHARE THESE MATH RESOURCES WITH YOUR CLIENT FAMILIES

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 repeat rhymes that use numbers.

Talk math. Make comparisons such as "big" and "little," "more" and "fewer," "heavy" and "light" introduce the concept of volume and mass. "Long" and "short" teach measurement.

Shop together. Let your child help you at the grocery store. You can count the fruits and veggies together.

Play sorting games. Put all the balls in one basket and the trucks in a box. Learning "same" and "different" 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 birds in your yard. Talk about how the number changes when one flies away.

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

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 classify objects by shape or color
- How numbers relate to his world
- About order and sequence
- Awareness of measurement and volume
- Understands units of measure
- Recognizes value of fractions

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EVERY CHILD DESERVES OUR BEST

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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.

Let's Make Music!

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 larger than the bottom of the tube.

Step 3: Cover one end of the tube with the wax paper and secure it with a rubber band.

Step 4: Blow through the open end and start up the kazoo marching band!

Tube Rain Stick

Step 1: Decorate a wrapping paper or paper towel tube.

Step 2: Cut a piece of aluminum foil the length of the tube.

Step 3: Squeeze the foil to make a long snake.

Step 4: Cut the tip off of two balloons.

Step 5: Stretch one balloon to cover one end of the tube and secure it with a rubber band.

Step 6: Insert the foil snake. Pour rice or small dried foods into the tube.

Step 7: Use the second balloon to close the other end.

Step 8: Slowly rotate from one end to the other to make a magical rain sound.

Materials:

- Favorite decorating papers
- Stickers (optional)
- Glue
- Markers
- Pencils
- Scissors
- (may need adult help)
- Shoe or tissue box
- Rubber bands
- Toilet paper tube
- Wax paper
- Wrapping paper or paper towel tube
- Balloons
- Aluminum foil
- Dry foods: peas, beans, rice or popcorn

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TALK MATH

When you talk to your child, you're teaching her **more than just words**. She's learning basic math skills too. So, **talk, sing and play through everything**. Try our "Talk Math" resource today.

Find more math resources here.

LET'S MAKE MUSIC

Make your own instruments at home with our "Let's Make Music" resource. **Sort** the supplies before, and **count** the strums, hums and shakes after. **Who knew you could celebrate with math?**

También en español.

Learn more about **Better Beginnings!**

Visit our website.

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.

