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**News Release**

Change highlighted text, copy and paste onto your letterhead

**For more information, contact:**

Program Director Name

Title

Office: (XXX) XXX-XXXX

Email:

**FOR RELEASE: Fill in date**

**(Insert Program) in (city) Earns Highest Rating through Arkansas’s Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education**

**Fill in city name, ARK., Month, Day, Year** - **Better Beginnings**, Arkansas’s quality rating and improvement system for all licensed and registered child care facilities, recognizes (insert program) in (City)as a 3-star provider in quality child care and educational programs.

 (Insert program) has achieved the requirements to become a 3-star provider, while also maintaining the requirements of a 1 and 2-star provider. A 3-star rating is the highest level a Better Beginnings provider can receive and signifies the best quality of child care in Arkansas. When rating a 3-star facility, Better Beginnings focuses on five quality components: administration, staff qualifications and professional developmental, learning environment, environmental assessment and child health and development.

 “Research shows that the early months and years following birth really do matter, that maximum brain development happens during the first five years of life – before children are ‘officially’ in school. We want children to have a better beginning to their education,” said Tonya Williams, Director, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education**.**

 Better Beginnings provides curriculum based on the early learning and development guidelines: math, science and literacy. Through a high-quality learning environment, children develop social and academic skills that lead to school success.

Better Beginnings connects Arkansas families with information and child care that help children experience a safe, happy and healthy childhood. For more information on Better, visit **ARBetterBeginnings.com** or call **1-501-682-8590.**

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