



Literacy



Math



Science



**A NOTE FROM
KELLI HILBURN**
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Exploration is a great way for children to learn about the nature that surrounds them. There's no better month than April to make nature a focus in your classroom. The weather is warmer and we celebrate **Earth Day** this month! By teaching children about their world early in life, they will care for and appreciate it later in life.

To help you get started, we've included nature-focused **science** resources in this month's edition of *The Buzz*. These resources also fit with this year's Arkansas Children's Week theme, **Play Yards, Neighborhoods, and Other Special Areas**, which is taking place April 15-21! We can't wait to see how you celebrate the children and families of Arkansas. Keep an eye out for a special edition *Buzz* coming later this month with ideas to enrich your celebration.

In the meantime, keep reading for helpful resources, including the dates and times for upcoming provider calls and **kits** to help your facility advance to star levels 4, 5, and 6. We're so proud of those who have already reached these new star levels! This is a huge achievement for those facilities and the children they serve. That's why starting this month, you will get a badge to celebrate your new level! These badges (pictured below) are for you to use in any hardcopy or electronic communication to showcase your dedication to providing the best possible care for the children of Arkansas.



Reaching a higher level is an achievement worth celebrating and we're glad we get to celebrate you. Let the celebration begin, stargazers.

Until next time,

Kelli Hilburn

Kelli Hilburn
BETTER BEGINNINGS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR
DIVISION OF CHILD CARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



JOIN US IN OUR GOAL THIS YEAR TO
REACH FOR THE STARS
CLICK TO LEARN MORE



**VIDEO
CORNER**

WATCH NOW

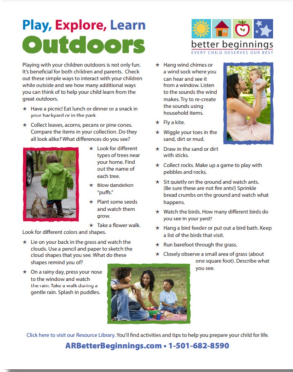
Exploring nature means experiencing weather. Show children how rain works with the Rainstorm in a Jar activity. Try this at home using the resource guide below.



PLAY,
LEARN,
EXPLORE

**LEARNING
RESOURCES**





Play, Explore, Learn Outdoors

Playing outside is beneficial for children and adults, promoting healthy habits, and happy attitudes. This resource is full of activities that allow children to safely interact with the outdoors.

[View Resource](#)



Rainstorm in a Jar

In children's minds, it's magical how April showers bring May flowers. Use this resource, to bottle that magic while teaching children about the science of weather using common household items.

[View Resource](#)



Woodland Mini Garden

Take preschoolers to the playground, and encourage them to collect leaves, flowers, or grass to create their own gardens. Supervise the collection process to make sure they don't pick up anything harmful.

[View Resource](#)



LEARNING IS FUN!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Arkansas Children's Week 2023

The toolkit for Arkansas Children's Week is out! Get it today from the A-State Childhood Services website. It has everything you need to take children on an adventure through play yards, neighborhoods, and other special areas on April 15 – 21, 2023.

[View the Toolkit](#)

New Star Levels

Star Levels 4, 5, and 6 are out! Click the button below, then choose your facility type to find resources to get started on your journey to reach these new star levels. Bring higher-quality care to the children of Arkansas and get them ready for success in kindergarten and beyond.

[Get Started](#)





UPCOMING EVENTS

Provider Calls

Don't miss your chance to Zoom with representatives from the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education!

- Informational Provider Informational Meeting: Tuesday, April 4 at noon
- Placement & Residential Informational Meeting: Thursday, April 6 at 10:00 a.m.
- Regulatory Check Training: Thursday, April 27 at noon

[Learn More](#)



BETTER BEGINNINGS
**STAR
APPROVALS**

QUALITY CARE!

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. To meet this objective, Better Beginnings encourages providers to improve their facility's star ratings. Below are the most recent facilities to advance their quality standards.



The following programs are now **6-star** Better Beginnings providers:

- St. John Head Start, Fort Smith
- Greenwood Head Start, Greenwood
- Van Buren Head Start, Van Buren
- Dallas Street Head Start, Fort Smith
- Hamilton Head Start, Van Buren
- Sutton Place Head Start, Fort Smith
- Van Buren Part Day Head Start, Van Buren
- In His Care Children's Center, Garfield
- Evening Shade Day Care, Evening Shade
- London - RSD Preschool, London
- Brookland Primary School, Brookland
- Mother's Touch Preschool, Booneville
- IDC & Nursery School, Bentonville
- The Little Eagles Nest, Huntsville
- Happy Day Daycare, Farmington
- Susan Meek's CCFH, Fayetteville
- Bright Beginnings, Siloam Springs
- Our House Children's Programs, Little Rock



FIVE STAR PROVIDERS

The following programs are now **5-star** Better Beginnings providers:

- Langston Aerospace Magnet Preschool, Hot Springs
- Nettleton Pre-K University Heights, Jonesboro
- Park Avenue Elementary Pre-K, Stuttgart
- Danville ABC Program, Danville
- Head of the Class Childcare and Learning Center LLC, Monticello
- Oden Preschool, Oden



FOUR STAR PROVIDERS

The following programs are now **4-star** Better Beginnings providers:

- Linda Childers Knapp Pre-K, Springdale
- Prescott Head Start , Prescott
- Lafayette County Head Start, Lewisville
- Bradley Head Start, Bradley
- Blevins Head Start, Blevins
- Hope Head Start Yerger, Hope
- Nevada Head Start, Rosston
- McNeil Head Start, McNeil
- Magnolia Headstart Center, Magnolia
- Emerson Head Start Center, Emerson
- Dierks ABC Preschool, Dierks
- Pre-K Lawson Elementary, Little Rock
- Lincoln Elementary Pre-K, Lincoln
- Dequeen Preschool, De Queen



THREE STAR PROVIDERS

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

- ARVAC Head Start - Waldron Center, Waldron
- Kiddie Campus Child Care Center Inc, Fayetteville
- Cabot Patch Kids LLC, Cabot
- Heber Springs Elementary Panther Clubhouse, Heber Springs



TWO STAR PROVIDERS

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

- Teeny Tiny Tots Playhouse, Little Rock
- Little Zion Learning Center, West Memphis
- Kids Corp of Fayetteville, Inc, Springdale
- Miracle Kids Success Academy, Paragould
- Kids for the Future of Rogers, Inc, Rogers
- Kids Unlimited Learning Academy, Springdale
- Grow Learning Center - Benton, Benton
- Kidspiration Too Pediatric Therapy, Inc, Melbourne
- Kidspot Walnut Ridge Inc, Walnut Ridge
- Paris ARVAC Head Start, Paris
- MKJD, LLC DBA Stars, Batesville
- Grow Learning Center, Little Rock
- From the Beginning, Ash Flat
- From the Beginning, Cave City



ONE STAR PROVIDERS

The following programs are now **1-star** Better Beginnings providers:

- Learning Station Child Development Center, LLC, Fouke

- Excellence Learning Academy, Jacksonville
- Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center Pre-K, Little Rock
- Hope Childcare Center, Quitman

Level Up Resource

Looking to increase your star level? Check out our [Provider Tools](#) to get started!

Visit our Website

WHAT IS BETTER BEGINNINGS?



Better Beginnings means better opportunities. Investing in quality child care for all Arkansas children creates better opportunities for our children, families, workforce and communities.

Visit our Website



FOLLOW US FOR MORE RESOURCES



Better Beginnings is Arkansas's tiered 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.



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