



Literacy



Math



Science



**better beginnings**  
EVERY CHILD DESERVES OUR BEST



## A NOTE FROM KELLI HILBURN

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Every April, the early childhood community celebrates Arkansas Children's Week. This is a time when we highlight tomorrow's leaders and those who teach them. This year's theme is Sharing Key Experiences, which is all about setting up moments that allow children to learn and develop through play.

There are two ways you can join in the fun, too! First, ask your child care provider what they have planned and where you can join or help. A lot of work and training goes into making this week fun for everyone. The other way to participate is to bring the learning home. The [science](#) resources included in this edition of *The Buzz* are a great place to start as they promote hands-on learning and exploration, encouraging your child to [reach for the stars](#).

A big science event is occurring in our state this month. A solar eclipse will happen Monday, April 8 with many communities across Arkansas seeing totality. Check out this [resource](#) for safety tips and ways to teach your child about this amazing phenomenon.

Also included in this edition of *The Buzz* is our summer child care [checklist](#) and tips for keeping children safe while traveling. If you know someone who would benefit from these resources, share this newsletter and encourage them to [sign up](#) for more.

Until next time,

**Kelli Hilburn**  
BETTER BEGINNINGS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR  
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



# JOIN US IN OUR GOAL TO REACH FOR THE STARS

CLICK TO LEARN MORE



## VIDEO CORNER

WATCH NOW



PLAY, LEARN, EXPLORE

# LEARNING RESOURCES



### Sunflower in a Jar

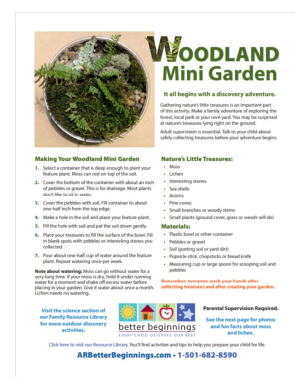
Is your child curious about how plants grow? This hands-on activity is perfect to show them how nature works.

[View Resource](#)



### Play, Explore, Learn Outdoors

It's the perfect time to enjoy the great outdoors. This resource is full of ways you can encourage exploration and learning anywhere, include your own backyard.



### Mini Woodland Garden

This resource can help children learn about the beauty of nature. Collecting nature's treasures, with active adult supervision, encourages their curiosity and makes memories that

will last a lifetime.

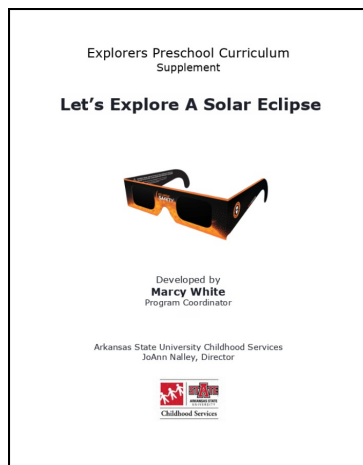
[View Resource](#)

[View Resource](#)



LEARNING  
IS FUN!

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



### [Eclipse Safety Resource](#)

Find tips for teaching your child about the solar eclipse and keeping them safe during the event with a new resource from our friends at Arkansas State University Childhood Services.

[Learn More](#)

### [Summer Child Care Checklist](#)

There's a lot for you to consider when looking for a summer child care program. Use this checklist as your guide to find the quality program that best fits the needs of you and your child.

[Learn More](#)



### [Tips for the Picky Eater](#)

Unsure what to do get your child to eat? This resource can help. It's full of tips to help you navigate this stage in your child's life.

[Get the Tips](#)

### [Getting Ready for Kindergarten](#)

You can help your child get ready for kindergarten by using the Getting Ready for Kindergarten calendar. The calendar offers weekly activities that will help your child understand the key concepts they need to excel in kindergarten and beyond.

[Learn More](#)



## HEALTH AND SAFETY



### Tips for Travel by Car:

Traveling by car safely means putting your child in a car seat. This can be hard, especially on long trips. Here are three ways that can help make traveling by car a little easier on everyone.

1. Ride in the back seat with your infant on long trips
  - Riding with your infant can help you stick to a feeding schedule and offer immediate care. However, don't breastfeed while the car is in motion.
2. Pack a bag with items to keep your child occupied.
  - Young children's attention spans are short. Toys, books, paper and crayons, or similar items can help keep them entertained on longer trips.
3. Stop frequently to give everyone some breaks.
  - No one likes to sit in a car for a long time. Allowing for frequent breaks lets everyone stretch their legs and move their bodies.

## 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





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RESOURCES**



Better Beginnings is Arkansas' tiered quality rating and 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 Education and Office of Early Childhood.



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