



Literacy



Math



Science

Provider Buzz | April 2025



Springtime is a great opportunity to teach children about the natural world around us. There are countless things to focus on - from the plants that produce the oxygen we need to breathe to the rain that helps those plants grow. Books and age-appropriate, play-based learning activities are fantastic tools to help children understand nature, how it works, and why we care for it.

You'll find hands-on activities to get you started with the [science resources](#) listed below. While you're reading, check out the approved [curriculum list](#) from the Office of Early Childhood, the [Provider Tools](#) information to get you reaching for the stars, upcoming events, and the latest round of star approvals.

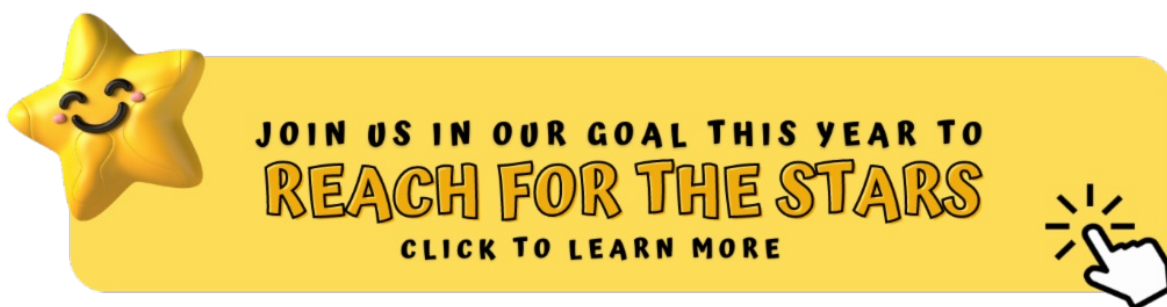
Lastly, a HUGE congratulations to Kim Stinson, the owner and director of [Lil Lions Daycare](#) in Bismarck, for being named Arkansas's Small Business Person of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration! We're proud to see her hard work and dedication to the children in her care honored nationally.

The world around us is full of wonder that's ready to be explored. Spark curiosity for children in your classroom and inspire them to embark on their own journeys of discovery while you [reach for the stars](#).

Until next time,



Kelli Hilburn
BETTER BEGINNINGS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



WATCH NOW 

Experience is a great teacher! Check out this video for a fun, hands-on way to help children learn about science.



LEARNING RESOURCES

PLAY,
LEARN,
EXPLORE



The section features a large yellow background. On the left, a circular inset shows a young child with curly hair reading a book. To the right of this is the text 'LEARNING RESOURCES' in large, bold, white capital letters. Below this text is a smaller orange circle containing the text 'PLAY, LEARN, EXPLORE'. At the bottom of the yellow section are two more circular insets, each showing children playing with toys.



Rainstorm in a Jar

Staying inside doesn't have to be boring. Help children understand how April showers work with this resource!

[View Resource](#)



Get Muddy with Your Buddy

Spark imagination with mud! Yes, you read that right – playing in the mud can inspire creativity and learning. See how with this resource.

[View Resource](#)



Sunflower in a Jar

Show, don't just tell your child how plants grow! As they watch a sunflower grow, they'll learn what plants need to grow and about the importance of caring for nature. Learn more with this resource.

[View Resource](#)



LEARNING IS FUN!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Provider Tools

Ready to increase your star level? Check out the Provider Tools section of the Better Beginnings

website to get started.

[Learn More](#)



[AR Resource Connections](#)

Looking for a one-stop location full of resources to help you improve quality? This is the place for you! You'll find practical tools, guidance on a variety of topics, and more. Check it out today!

[Learn More](#)



Monthly Provider Call

Tuesday, April 1, Zoom

It's not an April Fool's joke! The next provider call is scheduled for Tuesday, April 1 at noon. Zoom with representatives from the Office of Early Childhood and get the

[Register Here](#)

Arkansas Children's Week

April 1-5, 2025

Arkansas Children's Week is coming! Check out all the ways you can celebrate with the planning toolkit by our friends at A-State Childhood Services.

[Learn More](#)

Introduction to ASQ-3

10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Zoom

A-State Childhood Services is hosting three virtual trainings on the Ages & Stages Questionnaire, Third Edition. A kit and learning activities book will be sent to each facility represented at the training. Click the link below to register for April 17, May 15, or June 19.

[Register Here](#)

Early Childhood Town Halls

The Office of Early Childhood is heading back out on the road this spring for another round of town halls. Join your colleagues and Local Leads from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and hear the latest news about early childhood education in Arkansas.

- April 23 – Jacksonville | Location TBD
- April 30 – Russellville | The Center for the Arts – Russellville School District, 2209 S Knoxville Ave.
- May 7 – Mtn. Home | Vada Sheid Community Development Center – ASUMH Campus, 1600 S College St.
- May 14 – Hamburg | First Baptist Church Hamburg – ROC Building, 203 E Parker St.
- May 21 – Forrest City | East Arkansas Community College – Arkansas Workforce Center, 1700 New Castle Rd.



BETTER BEGINNINGS STAR APPROVALS

QUALITY
CARE!



Congratulations on reaching your next star level! Share your achievement with your community and client-families using our [Star Kit](#).



SIX-STAR PROVIDERS

The following program is now **6-star** Better Beginnings provider:

- Crossett Pre-K, Crossett



FIVE STAR PROVIDERS

The following program is now **5-star** Better Beginnings provider:

- O.U.R. Children's Center, Harrison



FOUR-STAR PROVIDERS

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

- Jumpstart Learning Center, Hope

- The After School Program at Helen Tyson Middle School, Springdale

THREE-STAR PROVIDERS

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

- ARCHILD INC, Little Rock
- Building Blocks Family Childcare of Gravette, Gravette
- Connect AFC, Benton
- Noah's Ark Daycare LLC, Ashdown
- Steudlein Learning Center, West Memphis
- The Goddard School of Conway, Conway

TWO-STAR PROVIDERS

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

- Kids Unlimited Learning Academy of Searcy, Searcy
- Miracle Kids Success Academy Inc, Jonesboro
- Miracle Kids Success Academy North Campus, Jonesboro
- Miracle Kids Success Academy of Truman, Truman

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 early care and education 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 and improvement system for child care, early education, and school-aged programs that have gone above and beyond the state minimum requirements. Better Beginnings is administered by the Arkansas Department of Education Office of Early Childhood.



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