

better beginnings



for Providers buzz

Department of Human Services Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education

April 2022



A NOTE FROM BETTER BEGINNINGS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR KELLI HILBURN



There are three words anyone can use to describe Arkansas child care providers: strong, inspiring, and caring. Other words are applicable but these stand out in my mind.

You are strong because you face challenges every day and always persevere through some of the hardest days.

You are inspiring because you always want what is best for the children in your care and will go to great lengths to see that done.

You are caring because you comfort a child when they cry, you make silly faces until a sad child smiles, and you help children process the big emotions that they don't know how to comprehend.

Thank you. I wish you could hear that every day. Thank you for standing in the face of great challenges. Thank you for giving a child comfort. Thank you for being there for the families of Arkansas when they need you the most.

Thank you.

Kelli Hilburn

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

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

THE 2022 ARKANSAS OUTSTANDING EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONAL IS...



Amber Scott from Grace Discovery Center in Hensley!

Amber is the center director and has worked in early education for nearly 15 years, having been in this field since she was 19. She worked in the classroom before becoming the director at Grace Discovery Center. When asked why she became part of the early childhood profession, she said:

"From an early age I knew I wanted to be around children. I was in and out of foster homes as a child and had no constant person. I knew I wanted to be that for someone. Little did I know it would be 100s of someones. The need to show young

children love, support and consistency is what influenced me."

Congratulations, Amber! Thank you for your dedication and all you do for the children and families of Arkansas.

FEATURING...YOU!



We love to see **YOU** interacting with children. With permission from your client-families, send pictures of yourself interacting with the children in your care to Imosley@comgroup.com. You might be featured on the Better Beginnings social media channels. Don't forget to tell us what you're doing in the photo!

Need ideas? Check out the [Family Resource Library](#) on the Better Beginnings website for fun activities.



A stylized illustration featuring a green and blue globe in the background. In the foreground, there is a stack of four books with red, yellow, blue, and green spines. A white ladder is leaning against the books. To the left of the books is a small green plant in a red pot. White paper scraps are floating around the globe and books.

Help your client-families continue the learning at home by sharing these literacy **resources** from our **Family Resource Library**.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Make Reading Fun

Better Beginnings with Books

Bring Books to Life

MEET THE TEAM



Lisa Busch - Program Manager



Describe your job in one sentence:

I make sure licensed child care centers and homes provide quality care to all children.

Favorite Children's book:

The *Little House on the Prairie* series.

Favorite toy as a child:

My favorite toy as a child was jacks. I could sit and play for hours.

When you were a child, what job did you want as an adult?

I wanted to be a Pediatrician so I could take care of sick babies.

Which of these education topics do you enjoy most and why? Math, Science, or Literacy?

I enjoy Literacy the most. I love to read and I love to read to or with all my grandchildren.

BETTER BEGINNINGS STAR APPROVALS



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

- Alice's Kids Wonderland, Jonesboro
- Dunbar Creative Learning Center, Earle
- Enrichment & Empowerment Academy, West Memphis
- Touched By An Angel, Little Rock

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

- Cat Club Brookland School, Brookland
- KidSpot, Marion

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

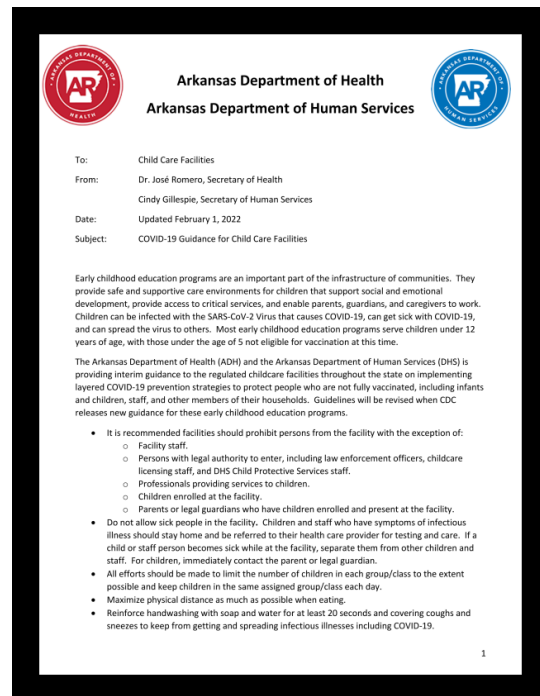
PANDEMIC GUIDELINES



The COVID-19 guidelines were updated to reflect the current state of the pandemic. As circumstances may change daily, Arkansas DHS and the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education will **monitor and adjust these guidelines as needed.**

Find **COVID Advice and Resources** in the footer of our website. **Click here** to download the PDF or screenshot the document and save to your phone for quick access!

Child care providers are encouraged to call the Department of Human Services Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, Child Care Licensing at 501-320-6071 for answers to child care related COVID questions.



ARKANSAS DHS PANDEMIC GUIDELINES FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

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](#)



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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