



Literacy



Math



Science

Provider Buzz | August 2023



It's back to school time! I know you have worked hard this summer getting ready to welcome children back into your classrooms. Your dedication to Arkansas' youngest children doesn't go unnoticed. Your work is appreciated, and we are proud to partner with you again this year. Don't hesitate to contact the Better Beginnings team for assistance in reaching your quality goals.

A new school year for us means we get to see you again! We enjoyed our time at the A-State Childhood Services Early Childhood Education conference last week. It was great to see and chat with those who attended. Check out the special edition [Buzz](#) we distributed to see the highlights. Keep reading to see some highlights of our time there. If you missed us, we hope to see you in October at the [Arkansas Early Childhood Association](#) Conference. Find the details for this event and others later in this newsletter.

As you continue reading, you'll also find resources for [literacy](#) instruction and more to share with your client-families, or to use for engaging classroom activities.

I hope your year is full of fun and rest so that you're able to [reach for the stars](#) in everything you do.

Until next time,

**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**

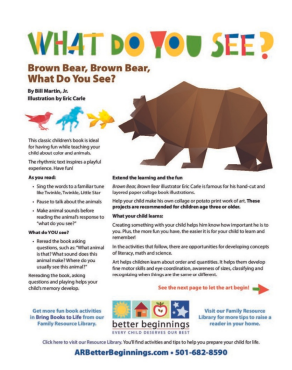
**WATCH NOW**

Reading to children is a great way to help build their vocabulary and establish a foundation for lifelong reading. Books like *Ten Twinkly Stars*, read in the video below by a few of your colleagues, also help children understand other education concepts – like math. Watch the video to see how.



**PLAY,  
LEARN,  
EXPLORE**

# LEARNING RESOURCES



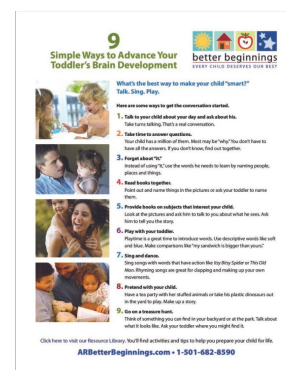
## What Do You See?

The book *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you See?* can be used as a



## Tips for Boosting Baby's Language Development

Babies whose families



## Simple Ways to Advance Toddler's Brain Development

Toddlers are naturally



great learning opportunity to teach children about colors and animals. Use this resource as your guide.

[View Resource](#)

and teachers speak to them develop the ability to speak at a faster rate. This resource provides strategies for helping babies develop their language skills, including reading and singing to them.

[View Resource](#)

curious about the world around them. Turn their curiosity into learning opportunities. With the help of this resource, you can take them on adventures, answer their questions and encourage learning through play for the best learning experiences.

[View Resource](#)



LEARNING IS FUN!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



**Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**

Let your client-families know they can receive a free book each month in the mail from Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library. All they have to do is sign up.

[Sign Up](#)



**Kindergarten Readiness Indicator Checklist**

The Kindergarten Readiness Indicator Checklist is a great resource to share with your client-families. You can also use it to support and serve the children in your care and prepare them for successful, lifelong learning. Find it on the Better Beginnings website.

[Check it out!](#)

**Family Buzz**

Starting a new school year is the perfect time to engage new client-families. Help them stay in the know by encouraging them to sign up for the Better Beginnings Family Buzz! Each month, they’ll receive ideas for fun learning activities they can do at home and other relevant resources in their inbox. Share the sign-up link with them today.

[Sign Up](#)



**Military Child Care**

You can help military families in your community by



becoming a certified Military Child Care In Your Neighborhood provider. This fee-assistance program helps military families find and afford high-quality child care in their communities when care isn't available on base.

[Learn More](#)



*4th Annual STEAM Conference - September*

Join Better Beginnings staff and our friends from [Child Care Aware of West Central Arkansas](#) and Don Monopoli from [The Learning Station](#) at the 4th Annual Early Childhood STEAM Conference Saturday, September 30, in Bismarck. Learn how to incorporate STEAM learning principles into your classroom activities.

[Learn More](#)

*AECA Conference - October*

Did you miss us at the A-State conference? Come see us at the Arkansas Early Childhood Association conference on October 11-14, 2023 in Little Rock! We're so excited to learn more about what it looks like when we encourage children to learn through play.

[Learn More](#)



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.

Tell your community and client-families about this great achievement with the help of the [Star-Level Kit](#) found on the Better Beginnings website.





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

- Amity Central Arkansas Development Council Headstart, Amity
- CADC Bismarck Headstart/ABC, Bismarck
- Chenal Valley Montessori, Little Rock
- Delight Head Start, Delight
- Harmony Grove Head Start Center, Haskell
- Murfreesboro Child Development Center, Murfreesboro
- The Pre-K at Happy Hollow, Fayetteville
- The Pre-K at Holcomb, Fayetteville
- The Pre-K at Asbell, Fayetteville
- The Pre-K at Owl Creek, Fayetteville
- WCC Bear Cub Preschool, Judsonia



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

- Dawson Coop Gardner ABC, Hot Springs
- Cotter ABC Preschool, Cotter
- Hampton ABC School, Hampton
- Dawson Co-op/ Ft. Lake ABC Program, Hot Springs
- The Pre-k at Butterfield, Fayetteville
- Little Red School House, Valley Springs
- Growing Gods Kingdom, West Fork



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

- Cave City Head Start, Cave City
- Corning ABC/Corning ECE Preschool, Corning
- Cross County ABC Preschool, Cherry Valley
- Marshall ABC Preschool, Marshall
- Melbourne ABC Preschool, Melbourne
- Mtn Home ABC Preschool, Mountain Home
- Rector ABC, Rector
- Salem Head Start, Salem
- Tate Elementary School, Van Buren
- Viola Head Start, Viola
- Bonneville Elementary Preschool, Fort Smith
- C.S.O. Inc Head Start Center - Lake Hamilton, Percy
- Dawson Education Coop/ Cutter Morning Star ABC, Hot Springs



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

- CSO Early Head Start Center - Pat Longinotti, Hot Springs
- Kids Academy, Magnolia
- Success Learning Academy, El Dorado
- Kidz Zone Learning Center, Inc, Little Rock
- Christ Little Rock Early Childhood, Little Rock



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

- Stepping Stones of Jonesboro, Jonesboro
- Kiddie Kollege Preschool LLC, North Little Rock

- Deta Freshstart Academy LLC, Little Rock

## 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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