



Better Beginnings Certification Process



Overview of the Certification Process

The Better Beginnings certification process consists of eight steps. Certification is valid for three years. You should start step about one year before you plan to submit your Better Beginnings application.

1. Begin the **Better Beginnings Application Checklist** and submit **Intent to Apply** form
2. Prepare for environmental assessment(s) and program review.
3. Gather documentation.
4. Complete environmental assessment(s) and program review.
5. Review the **Better Beginnings Application Checklist**.
6. Submit your Better Beginnings Application online in your ELS portal
7. Receive notification of Better Beginnings level assigned.
8. Maintenance, growth through technical assistance and training, and Recertification.

About 12 months before you plan to apply, submit the **Intent to Apply** form to BetterBeginnings@AState.edu to get started.

Providers must complete all requirements (including ERS Environmental Assessments and BAS Program Reviews) before submitting their Better Beginnings application in the ELS portal. All documentation must be uploaded before the application is submitted or the application will not be accepted.

Certification will be awarded based on the highest level of requirements met. Your certification is valid three years. It is recommended that programs request TA for classrooms support in the two years after certification and attend a BAS portfolio cohort a year before the application is due.

If you need help accessing or completing the application in the ELS portal, or other technical support related to the online application contact your Better Beginning Specialist at OEC, 501-320-6161, OEC.BetterBeginnings@ade.arkansas.gov

For more information on requirements and the application process go to:
<https://arbetterbeginnings.com/>