

better  
beginnings



for Families  
buzz

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

**JANUARY 2021**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

## A SPECIAL NOTE FROM DAWN JEFFREY



### Parents and Families,

Next month is **February!** Can you believe it?

**LOVE is already in the air,  
and we're falling in LOVE  
with LITERACY.**

**Literacy skills** are so important to your child's early brain development. It's never too early to start your child's love for **READING.**

Try sharing your favorite story by **reading aloud** to your baby. You can even **sing the story to your baby!** Listen as your child responds with babbles and coos. Babble back

when she babbles and coos.

For the older child, **take your favorite book to the stage!** Talk about the book before you even begin reading it to your child. Then **read it aloud** to your child from beginning to end. Finally, let her take centerstage as she **acts out her interpretation of the story.** Have some fun and ask her what character you should play. **She will love using her imagination with you.**

Try these literacy activities today with some of our favorite literacy resources, [Raising a Reader](#) and [Bring Books to Life](#).



## [RAISING A READER](#)

## [BRING BOOKS TO LIFE](#)

*Dawn Jeffrey*

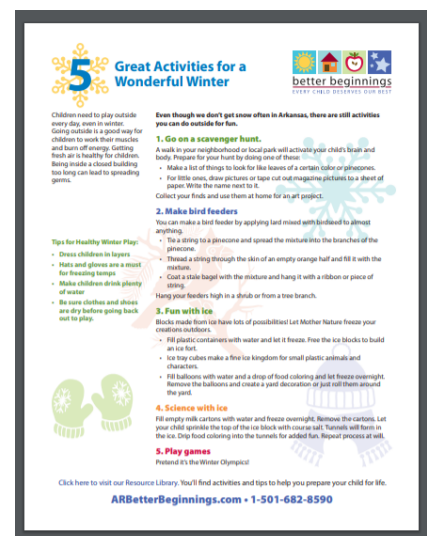
**Dawn Jeffrey M.S.E.**

Division of Early Child Care and Early Childhood Education  
Program Manager for Better Beginnings

## GET OUTSIDE AND PLAY THIS WINTER!

Children need to **get outside** and play every day, even when it's cold. **Outside play is a great way to get exercise and let some of their endless energy loose!**

Since COVID-19 has forced many of us to quarantine and miss out on fun activities, try allowing your child some extra outdoor play. It's essential to your child's **mental and physical health**.



**FIND MORE OUTDOOR RESOURCES HERE**

**[5 Great Activities for a Wonderful Winter](#)**

# DID YOU KNOW...?

Quality child care matters.



**85 percent** of a child's intellect, personality and social skills are **developed by age 5.**

## PLAYING IS LEARNING

Playing is learning, play benefits your child's development and play comes in many forms. Check out our [\*\*10 Things Every Parent Should Know about Play\*\*](#) resource to learn valuable tips for teaching your child through play at home.



**10 Things Every Parent Should Know About Play**



Be sure to check out our [Play is LEARNING Parent Tool](#) on our website. Just visit our [homepage](#) and click the **purple button** in the bottom left corner.

Click on each tile to see examples of learning through play in [Science](#), [Literacy](#) and [Math](#).

FIND MORE PLAY IS LEARNING RESOURCES HERE

WHAT IS BETTER BEGINNINGS?

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUT

OR, check us out on **social media**.

