



**FEBRUARY 2021**



## A SPECIAL NOTE FROM DAWN JEFFREY



### Providers,

**ONE** thing is for sure, time flies! Just **TWO** months ago, we were celebrating Christmas.

Now we are getting ready to head into month **THREE** of 2021. Next month is all about the numbers. We're excited to **MARCH into MATH with you!**

Math can be an overwhelming topic, and quite honestly, it can sound kind of boring. But, Better Beginnings doesn't do BORING child care, we do QUALITY child care. So, just **FOR** you, this edition of the Buzz features **FIVE** of our favorite [math resources and activities.](#)

Whether you're [preparing toddlers for kindergarten](#) or working with little ones as young as **SIX** months old, **math skills are critical to a child's early brain development.**

You can work it into your curriculum easily!

- Talk about how there are **SEVEN** days of the week.
- Here's an idea, work on math AND following directions with our [Simon Says Roll](#) math resource.
- Use our [Play the Way to Math](#) resource to make math fun with games like I Spy Numbers and more.

There are many opportunities to **use everyday routines to teach a math lesson.**

Math is complicated too, so if you do it right, maybe your math lesson will make nap time go by without a peep!

**The point is, start early.** Talk, draw and write numbers together over and over and over. **Repetition is key!**

Don't expect them to know **EIGHT** multiplied by **NINE** is 72 or how to solve for a Rubiks Cube before kindergarten. We're talking simple **life-skills** here.

Start by setting a goal to count to **TEN** together as a class.

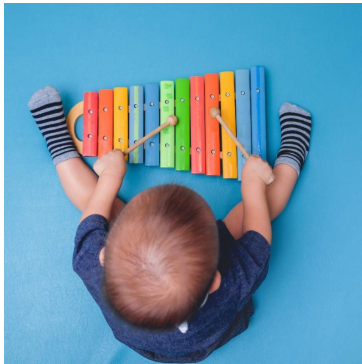
**Happy counting!**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawn Jeffrey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

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

# MARCHING INTO MATH!



## **LET'S MAKE MUSIC**

Get on your feet and **count** to the beat! **Music is a great way to work on math skills.** Use this resource to **make your own instruments in class** and try it today.



## **SORTING SACKS**

**Sorting** helps her recognize **patterns, colors and shapes.** It's a great activity for those **counting skills** she has been working on too! Check out our sorting resource to enjoy some **math fun** today!



## **TALK MATH**

**1, 2, 3, 4,** we declare a counting war! **Counting out loud** is a simple way to practice math skills at home. **Count how many fingers, toes, eyes and ears she has.** Point to each as you say the numbers.

[FIND MORE MATH RESOURCES HERE](#)

[CONNECTING LITERATURE AND MATH CURRICULUM HERE](#)

## DID YOU KNOW...?

You can still find [DHS Pandemic Procedures](#) under the [Trending tab](#) on our [website](#).

Go ahead and save it to your favorites.

**It will help you keep up with DHS policies and procedures.**



[FIND THE DHS PANDEMIC PROCEDURES HERE](#)



[MY TEACHER WEARS A MASK RESOURCES HERE](#)

## THANK YOU PROVIDERS!

We had several providers help us make our anniversary celebration extra magical by submitting countdown videos.

Check out this special message from **Grace Lutheran Early Childhood Center!**



**STAY TUNED!** Over the next year, we will be featuring all of our provider countdown videos in our Provider Buzz Newsletters.

**SEE MORE PROVIDER COUNTDOWN VIDEOS HERE.**

## CONGRATULATIONS TO NAFCC PILOT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



Ten **Better Beginnings** child care providers in Washington County and Benton County are pursuing accreditation from the **National Association for Family Childcare** (NAFCC) in a pilot program supported by the University of Arkansas Early Care and Education Projects, Family Child Care Network. The following Northwest Arkansas providers have been accepted as participants:

- **Linda Adams**, Siloam Springs
- **Carolyn Carney**, Farmington
- **Krista Houston**, Huntsville
- **Mary Line**, Bentonville
- **Linda Luney**, Pea Ridge
- **Sue Meek**, Fayetteville
- **Michelle Mendoza**, Garfield
- **Rita Neve**, Booneville
- **Terri McGuire**, Bentonville
- **Lisa Wood**, Prairie Grove

READ MORE ABOUT THE  
NAFCC PILOT PROGRAM  
HERE

## 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 program is now a **2-star Better Beginnings provider**:

- **BRYANT** - Sky Learning Center

The following program is now a **3-star Better Beginnings provider**:

- **ARKADELPHIA** - Dawson Arkadelphia ABC

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

# LAST CALL FOR AOECF NOMINATIONS!

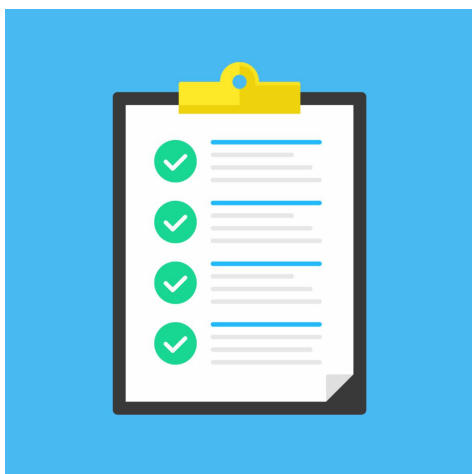
Thank you so much to all who have submitted nominations for our **Arkansas Outstanding Early Childhood Professional Awards!**

We are excited to review the applications soon. But first, we want to do **one last call for nominations!**

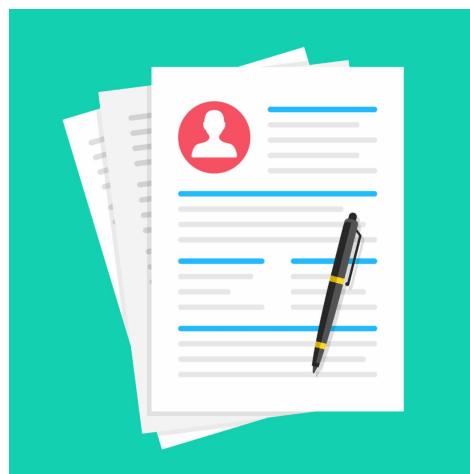
**Remember, to be considered for this honor, nominees must meet the following eligibility and qualification requirements:**

- Meet minimum **licensing requirements** for childcare staff
- Employed by an Arkansas licensed provider in **good standing**
- Teacher of an early childhood classroom (birth - 4 years) for at least **three years**
- Plans to remain in early childhood for **2021-2022**
- Willing to serve as an **early childhood ambassador**

**Please submit nomination packets to**  
**[letha.hassen@dhs.arkansas.gov](mailto:letha.hassen@dhs.arkansas.gov)**  
**no later than 5 pm on February 26, 2021.**



**QUESTIONNAIRE FORM**



**NOMINATION PACKET**



# WHAT IS BETTER BEGINNINGS?

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUT

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



Better Beginnings is Arkansas's 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.



Better Beginnings | DCCECE, Attn: Better Beginnings, PO Box 1437, Slot S150,  
Little Rock, AR 72203-1437

[Unsubscribe drogers@comgroup.com](mailto:unsubscribe.drogers@comgroup.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Customer Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [arbetterbeginnings@gmail.com](mailto:arbetterbeginnings@gmail.com) powered by