

FAMILIES | Play is for Learning...

Better Beginnings has new videos and activities to help your child learn through play this month and throughout the year. Check out our latest additions to the [Family Resource Library](#).



10 Things About Play
Playing with your child shows him he is important and his ideas matter to you.



Science just looks magic.
See our science resources for simple science activities you can enjoy with your child.

This month's featured resource...

OIL AND WATER
EXPERIMENTS

Some Liquids Are So Dense

Why don't oil and water mix? The answer begins with "molecules." Molecules are the tiny bits of matter that make up everything. Some substances are made of a lot of molecules. They are heavier on their own, than others. Think of paper made with molecules in there. One cup of tea has molecules. The other cup is full of oil with molecules. The molecules in the full bottles are also together. That's called density and it's heavier.

Water molecules are only able to fit better molecules. Oil molecules are only able to fit other oil molecules.

Water is more dense than oil. That's why it stays on top. Oil floats above the water.

See what that looks like in this easy experiment!

Four ingredients:
water
food coloring
washing up liquid oil
table salt

Step 1: Fill a glass about two-thirds full with tap water.

Step 2: Add a couple of drops of food coloring and stir.

Step 3: Add a couple of drops of oil to the glass. Watch it squish!

Now for the really neat part!

Step 4: Take a salt shaker to pour salt over the mixture. Watch the oil fall and rise. Continue adding salt to keep the experiment going.

What is happening? Here's the science!

Oil is more dense because the oil is heavier so it's going to sink. As the salt sinks it pushes back up. Oil floats on top. A float. The salt sinks to the bottom. It pushes the oil to the surface. You get chemistry!

Don't miss the fun! Experiments should always have parental participation.

 Learn more about the density of oil in the next experiment. **B.P.P.**

Click here to visit our Resource Library for fun activities and tips to help you empower children.

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Oil and Water Science Activity

Why don't oil and water mix? The answer begins with "molecules."

Reveal the full answer and help children learn about science through play with the Better Beginnings Oil & Water and Rainbow-In-A-Jar activities.

Don't miss the fun! Experiments should always have parent or teacher participation. Try it out!

Check out the video

New Year, Better Beginnings



Happy New Year! With new resolutions and goals, let Better Beginnings be your guide to assist you with a new, better beginning to 2019 and throughout the year.

Need help setting goals? Here are Better Beginnings' tips for families and providers to start 2019 on the right foot:

1. Use the Better Beginnings [find child care](#) locator tool to find a high quality program for your child in the new year.
2. Do a monthly activity with your child to learn through play by visiting our [Family Resource Library](#). You can also find activities in Spanish in the [Biblioteca de recursos en español](#) section of the Better Beginnings website.
3. Become a star-rated child care facility or increase your star level with Better Beginnings by learning the requirements on our [Provider Tools](#) page.
4. Follow us on social media for the latest news, family-friendly resources and provider tips!

Facebook: ARBetterBeginnings

Twitter: @ARChildCare

YouTube: ARBetterBeginnings

POLL | We Want to Know...

Last month, you shared your favorite books with us. This month we want to know:

Which of the Better Beginnings social channels do you engage with the most?

Facebook

Select

YouTube

Select

Twitter

Select

Pinterest

Select

THANK YOU | Better Beginnings Grows Quality Community

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 that are better prepared for kindergarten. In the last reporting period, Better Beginnings welcomed 5 new providers to the community of quality providers.

GARFIELD – **In His Care Childcare**

JONESBORO – **Next Generation Bilingual Learning Center**

LITTLE ROCK – **God's Giving Services**

PINE BLUFF – **Laugh-N-Learn 2**

TEXARKANA – **John's Day School**

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

PROVIDERS | Check Your Mail



If families have paid for child care at an Arkansas Better Beginnings 2-star or 3-star program and meet the requirements for claiming the Federal Child Care Tax Credit, they may qualify for a refundable state tax credit.

Be on the lookout for the *Arkansas Early Childhood Certification tax form AR 1000EC*. This form was recently sent by postal mail or email to Better Beginnings child care programs that are certified at 2-star and 3-star levels. The email version has been made electronic to allow you to complete your information before providing the form to parents.

Last, but not least...

Flu season is still in full swing. Protect your child today by getting him or her a flu shot. Don't stop with the kids. Parents and providers should also protect themselves from the flu by getting a flu shot as well. You can receive a flu shot at your local health department unit, local pharmacy or doctor's office.

To learn more about
Better Beginnings
and the resources available:

Visit our website

Stay in Touch with Better
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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.

