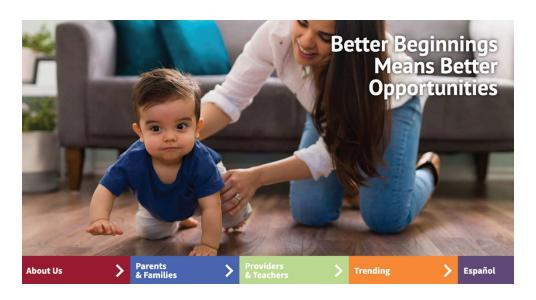






ARKANSAS BETTER BEGINNINGS LAUNCHES NEW USER-FRIENDLY WEBSITE



Better Beginnings launches new website to better inform Arkansas families about the importance of quality early childhood education.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (March 3, 2022) – It's now easier than ever for families and child care providers to find information and resources that support high-quality child care programs in the state, the Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education announced today with the release of its new <u>Better Beginnings</u> website.

The new site reflects the progress Better Beginnings has made toward improving child care programs across Arkansas since it began in 2010. The site has a new look and more current and efficient navigation tools so that parents can find important information about child care centers in their communities and providers can find resources to support their programs. Better Beginnings' goal is to make sure all children in Arkansas have access to quality child care.

"The website is an essential tool for people in Arkansas who want or provide child care," said Kelli Hilburn, Better Beginnings program administrator. "Efficient navigation means providers

get to spend more time with the children in their care and families can more easily find resources to help them identify and find quality child care in their community."

Using the new mega menus, visitors can see, at a glance, everything listed in that section. Parents and families can find the <u>Ages and Stages</u> page with child development information for children up to five years old, and the <u>Family Resource Library</u> that houses tips and fun learning through play activities in eight topics. Families can search for information about specific child care centers. All of that is available in Spanish under the <u>Español</u> tab.

"We hope to create a greater awareness of the importance of the early years of childhood and to encourage partnership between families, caregivers and the community," said Hilburn. "It takes all of us working together to create a solid foundation from which children can learn and grow."

A brief tutorial video showing users how to navigate the site is available on the Better Beginnings website and the Better Beginnings YouTube channel.

To see the new website or to learn more about Better Beginnings, follow them on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u> and <u>Twitter</u> or visit <u>arbetterbeginnings.com</u>.

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About Arkansas Better Beginnings:

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. Better Beginnings connects Arkansas families with the information and care that helps children experience a safe, happy and healthy childhood.