

FAMILIES | Play is for learning

Better Beginnings has new activities to help your child learn through play this month and throughout the year. Check out our latest addition to the [Family Resource Library](#). [Find resources en Español here.](#)



Show them how it's done
Children love to imitate. Let them see you writing and give them the tools to practice. Get 4 activities to help build fine motor skills needed for writing.

Play it up!
Talk, sing, play every chance you get. With every word you say, your baby learns. Get 9 tips to boost your baby's language.

This month's featured resource...

9 Tips to Boost Your Baby's Language Development 

Babies whose parents talk to them often develop language at a faster rate. These babies know 300 more words by age 2 than babies whose parents rarely speak to them.

Here are some tips on how to get your baby talking.

- 1. Talk, talk, talk.**
If your baby is awake, you should be talking to him. Talk about what is happening. Describe objects with words like soft, blue or cold.
- 2. Sing and dance.**
Babies find the sound of your voice soothing. Songs with movement are even better. Put your baby's hands together or bounce his feet. You'll be dancing together before you know it!
- 3. Babble back.**
Acknowledge your baby's attempts at talking by answering with the same sounds.
- 4. Reward your baby.**
Give lots of kisses and hugs every time your baby tries to communicate.
- 5. Name names.**
Use "real" names for the things around her. Repeating the names of things helps your baby learn.
- 6. Read to your baby.**
Make reading part of your daily bonding. Your voice soothes and relaxes her.
- 7. Give your baby soft books.**
Puffy pages are easier to turn. Most soft books have textures you can talk to him about.
- 8. Ask questions.**
"What's that?" Point to a picture in a book and name the object.
- 9. Play!**
Peekaboo and Patty Cake are standards for using repetition to teach words. Try asking, "Where's your nose?" Show your baby her nose. Mom do the same other parts of the body. Tickles are allowed. Repeat often.

Click here to visit our Resource Library. You'll find activities and tips to help you prepare your child for life.
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9 Tips to Boost Your Baby's Language Development

Babies whose parents talk to them often develop language at a faster rate. These babies know 300 more words by age 2 than babies whose parents rarely speak to them. Learn how to get your baby talking. **Also en Español.**

Try it out

THANK YOU | Better Beginnings 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 are better prepared for kindergarten.

The following programs are new **Better Beginnings providers**:
SHERWOOD - Little Scholars of Sherwood (new to Better Beginnings) (3-star)
EDMONSON - Kings and Queens of Destiny Developmental Center (1-star)

The following program moved up to a 3-star **Better Beginnings provider**:

EVENING SHADE - Evening Shade Daycare Family Home

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

PROVIDERS | Adventures for Toddlers

Adventures for Toddlers is a comprehensive curriculum for children from eighteen through thirty-six months. Programs using the **Adventures for Toddlers** curriculum can easily transition into the **Adventures in Learning** curriculum for children from three through five.



Adventures for Toddlers

Adventures for Toddlers, a comprehensive curriculum for children from eighteen through thirty-six months, has been developed and revised through contracts with the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education. Programs using the Adventures for Toddlers curriculum can easily transition into the *Adventures in Learning* curriculum for children from three through five.

- Introduction
- Overview and Featured Books
- Curriculum Tools and Techniques
- References and Resources
- Directions for Developing Weekly Activity Plans for Toddlers
- Weekly Activity Plan Sheet - Blank #1
- Weekly Activity Plan Sheet - Blank #2
- Weekly Activity Plan Sheet - #1a - Younger Toddlers - #1.1 - My Name - I'm Growing
- Weekly Activity Plan Sheet - #1b - Older Toddlers - #1.1 - My Name - I'm Growing
- Weekly Activity Plan Sheet - #1c - Younger Toddlers - #1.1 - My Name - I'm Growing
- Weekly Activity Plan Sheet - #2a - Older Toddlers - #1.1 - My Name - I'm Growing

Focus Area #1 - About Me

Topics of Study:

- #1 - Introduction and Preparation for About Me
- #1.1 My Name - I'm Growing
 - Attachment A - Jack and Jill

Find activities

To learn more about
Better Beginnings
and the resources available:

Visit our website

Stay in Touch with Better
Beginnings



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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.

