



Literacy



Math



Science

Family Buzz | December 2022



The holiday season is in full swing! This is a great time of year to be a child, especially a young child. Many young children will experience a lot of firsts. Maybe they will experience their first snow or see a big, bright holiday light display for the first time. Each moment is a memory for the child and for you. Children are little once. You can enjoy this time with your little one by participating in activities we have for you in this month's edition of the *Buzz*.

Those activities include three [literacy](#)-based activities and a holiday [craft](#) that is perfect for the development of fine motor skills and indoor play on the frostiest winter days. Outdoor play is still important, even in the winter. So, take advantage of the mild winter days and go on a [scavenger hunt](#)! You never know what you'll find or what fun you'll have.

While we're on the subject, let's talk about play – specifically outdoor play. Outdoor play doesn't stop when the temperature drops. When children are playing outside this [winter](#), make sure they are:

- Wearing hats, jackets, and gloves are worn when outside.
- Drinking plenty of water.
- Wearing dry clothes before heading outside.

There's more for you in this newsletter. As you continue reading, you'll find some great [training opportunities](#) for families, a [resource](#) to help you choose the best toy, and a [story](#) featuring a familiar face about the impact quality child care has on families and communities.

It's easy to get swept up in the chaos and busyness that comes with this time of the year. Help your children [reach for the stars](#) with learning activities the whole family can enjoy. Play outside or cuddle up with a good book to build strong bonds and create memories this holiday season.

Happy Holidays! See you next year!

Kelli Hilburn



Did you know that reading to your child 10 minutes a day can help them recognize sounds and letters, develop their communication skills, and increase their vocabulary? You do now! Watch the video below, and check out the Arkansas Department of Human Services [website](#) to learn more about how reading books like *Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?* brings great benefit to your child.



What Do You See?



Boost Baby's



Advance Toddler's

Bring the book *Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?* to life with this resource! This is a great book and activity to teach children about colors and animals.

[View Resource](#)

Development

Talking to babies helps them develop language at a faster rate. Check out this resource to see how to help your baby develop their ability to talk and read.

[View Resource](#)

Brain Development

How can you help toddlers learn and develop? Talk. Play. Sing. Yep, it's that easy! Watch your toddler's language skills grow with these simple steps.

[View Resource](#)



LEARNING IS FUN!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES





Holiday Cards by Kids

Before your child can write, they have to develop their fine motor skills. You can do that by creating holiday cards with your kids! They can be as simple as scribbles on paper to give to family and friends, or they can be a little more creative like a pop-up snowmen card in the link below.

[View the Pop-up Card](#)



In The News

Better Beginnings Program Administrator Kelli Hilburn was interviewed by the *Clay County Times-Democrat*. She discussed why high-quality child care is needed by families and communities of all sizes.

[Learn More](#)

Choose The Right Toy

Get your child the best toy this year using the [Choose the Right Toy](#) resource, from our [Family Resource Library](#). What is the best toy? One that is simple and durable. It will grow with your child and encourage them to use their imagination as they play.

[View the Resource](#)





Parenting with Purpose: Self-Control

Join [Curricula Concepts](#) on Thursday, December 8 to learn what self-control is and why it’s important to children’s development. The training will take place via Zoom from 12:30 – 2 p.m.

[Register Now](#)

Family Café: The Importance of Self-Care

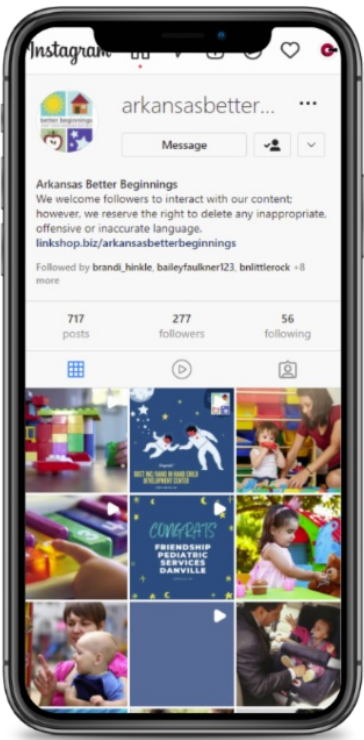
Learn about the effects of stress on the mind and body. Then discuss self-care strategies from [Curricula Concepts](#) via Zoom on Thursday, December 15 from 1 – 2:30 p.m

[Register Now](#)



Better Beginnings means better opportunities. Investing in quality child care for all Arkansas children creates better opportunities for our children, families, workforce and communities.

[Visit our Website](#)



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RESOURCES**



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.



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