



Literacy



Math



Science

Provider Buzz | December 2022



Can you believe it's December already? You all have achieved so much in such a short time. It's been wonderful to watch you all [reach for the stars](#) and have fun while doing it. We know you're not stopping anytime soon, though some rest is well-deserved. Just be ready because we're going to hit the ground running in 2023. We have exciting things planned that we can't wait to share.

Let's not get ahead of ourselves, though. We still have December to focus on. December marks the beginning of winter, so let's talk about outdoor play and winter safety. When children are playing outside this [winter](#), make sure they are:

- Wearing hats, jackets, and gloves when playing outside.
- Drinking plenty of water.
- Wearing dry clothes before they head outside to play again.

There will be days when it's too cold to play outside. For those days, we included in this edition of the *Buzz*, three [literacy](#)-based activities to further children's development during play. You'll also see resources for increasing your [level](#), an [interview](#) with me about the economic impact of quality child care, a [resource](#) to find the best toys for your classroom, an upcoming [event](#), and the latest star approvals.

This month's *Buzz* is full, but that's the best kind. It's exciting to celebrate your hard work in each edition of the *Buzz*. We hope to see even more of that.

Happy Holidays! See you next year!

Kelli Hilburn

Kelli Hilburn
BETTER BEGINNINGS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR
DIVISION OF CHILD CARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



JOIN US IN OUR GOAL THIS YEAR TO
REACH FOR THE STARS
CLICK TO LEARN MORE



VIDEO
CORNER

WATCH NOW

Watch some familiar faces read *Brown, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* Then learn more about why **10 Minutes Matter** and how to encourage your client-families to read to their children at home.



**PLAY,
LEARN,
EXPLORE**

LEARNING RESOURCES



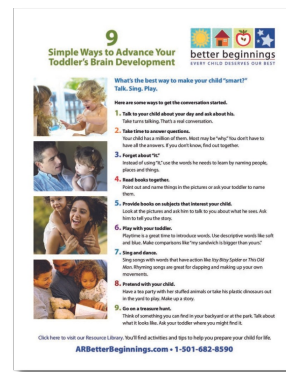
What Do You See?

Bring *Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?* to life with this resource and continue the learning!



Boost Baby's Development

Talking to babies helps them develop language at a faster rate. Check out this resource to see what



Advance Toddler's Brain Development

How can you help toddlers learn more and develop? Talk. Play. Sing. Yep, it's that easy!

This is a great book and activity to teach children about colors and animals.

[View Resource](#)

role you play as a provider in helping babies develop their ability to talk and read.

[View Resource](#)

Put this resource to use and watch the toddlers in your care quickly develop in their language skills.

[View Resource](#)



LEARNING
IS FUN!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Tools To Increase Your Level

Are you looking to become a Better Beginnings provider or increase your star level? Our Provider Tools are here to help make the process quick and simple. Check it out today!

[Star Level Information](#)



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

Use the [Choose the Right Toy](#) resource from our [Family Resource Library](#) to stock your classroom with the best toys for young children. What are the best toys? Ones that are simple and durable. They grow with children and allow them to use their imagination as they play.

[View the Resource](#)





UPCOMING EVENTS

River Valley Early Childhood Association

The [Northwest Arkansas Early Childhood Association](#) is hosting a meeting on Tuesday, December 13 featuring Teri Patrick, who will discuss how preschool teachers can promote social and emotional development in the classroom. Register today on the [Arkansas Professional Development Registry](#) using the course ID 50025.

Register Now



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. To meet this objective, Better Beginnings encourages providers to improve their facility's star ratings. Below are the most recent facilities to advance their quality standards.

THREE STAR PROVIDERS

The following programs are now **3-star** Better Beginnings providers:

- Little Miracles Daycare, Conway
- Cradle to Crayons, Searcy
- Arvac Head Start- Mena Center, Mena
- Sheila Baumann Home Day Care, Searcy

TWO STAR PROVIDERS

The following programs are now **2-star** Better Beginnings providers:

- Eagles Landing, Vilonia
- Williams Elementary, Little Rock
- Vilonia Primary Schools Eagles Landing, Conway
- Geyer Springs Care, Little Rock
- J.A Fair Care, Little Rock
- Care Brady Elementary, Little Rock
- Forest Park Care, Little Rock
- First Presbyterian Daycare, Pine Bluff
- Mom's Learning Center, Little Rock

- Care Fulbright Elementary, Little Rock
- Care Rockefeller Elementary, Little Rock
- Chicot Elementary Care-Program, Little Rock
- York W. Williams Jr. Child Development Center, Dermott
- Care Terry Program, Little Rock
- Romine Care Program, Little Rock
- Marneicia's Love and Care Development Center, Little Rock
- School Kids Connection Root, Fayetteville
- School Kids Connection Vandergriff, Fayetteville
- Donald W. Reynolds School Kids Connection McNair, Fayetteville
- Bundles of Joy Infant Center, Greenwood
- School Kids Connection Owl Creek; Fayetteville
- Tiny Hearts Learning Academy, Benton
- School Kids Connection Holt, Fayetteville
- School Kids Connection Holcomb, Fayetteville
- School Kids Connection Happy Hollow, Fayetteville
- School Kids Connection Washington, Fayetteville
- School Kids Connection Leverett, Fayetteville



The following programs are now **1-star** Better Beginnings providers:

- Carla's Daycare, Stamps
- Deta Freshstart Academy LLC, Little Rock

Congratulations to these providers! Thank you for everything you do to keep Arkansas' children safe, nourished, and well. If you are interested in becoming a Better Beginnings provider or moving up in star ratings, click the button below!

Provider Star
Ratings

Level Up Resource

Looking to increase your star level or to start your journey to become a Better Beginnings provider? Check out the [Provider Tools](#) section of our website to find the information you need to start your journey.

Visit our
Website



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





**FOLLOW US
FOR MORE
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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