



Literacy



Math



Science

Family Buzz | December 2023



A NOTE FROM KELLI HILBURN

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Children are born learning, soaking in knowledge from the world around them. You play a vital role in nurturing their curiosity. There is no better time than the holiday season to sprinkle some learning magic in their day. Are you baking chocolate chip cookies? Ask your child to count the number of chips they see in each cookie! And don't forget the presents. Presents are great to teach your child about shapes, sizes, and colors.

We've included [math](#) resources in this edition of the *Buzz*, so you can keep learning as a family this holiday season. Learning through play builds a solid foundation and creates the mathematical skills your child needs. As you keep reading, you'll also find a resource with [tips](#) for choosing the best toys that cultivate children's curiosity and information about the new Kindergarten Readiness [section](#) on the Better Beginnings website.

You can make your child's holiday season merry and bright as they learn new concepts and [reach for the stars](#).

Wishing you a very happy holiday season,

Kelli Hilburn

Kelli Hilburn
BETTER BEGINNINGS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



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



Shapes, colors, and numbers – oh my! Using playdough, cardboard, and materials readily available in most homes, your child can learn basic math concepts they need for future educational success. Watch the video below to learn more.



LEARNING RESOURCES

PLAY, LEARN, EXPLORE



3 Paths to Math

Looking for ways to instill math concepts in your child while they're home? **Build It, Bake It, Book It.** This resource gives you easy, play-based ideas to make your child laugh while learning.

[View Resource](#)
[Español Version](#)


Make It Math

The hands-on learning activities in this resource will have your child identifying shapes, numbers, and colors in no time. These activities are great for counting practice too!

[View Resource](#)
[Español Version](#)


Paper Playground

Is the weather forcing your child to have an indoor play day? This activity is perfect to engage their little mind! As your child builds, they'll learn important math concepts and creative thinking skills.

[View Resource](#)
[Español Version](#)



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Choosing the Right Toy

Some toys are great for your child's brain development. This resource provides some guidelines for toys that promote learning through play this holiday season.

[Learn More](#)

Kindergarten Readiness

Check out the new section on the Better Beginnings website dedicated to helping you prepare your child for Kindergarten. This section includes resources to help identify a range of skills, knowledge, and behaviors for your child to master during their pre-Kindergarten year. By partnering with your child care provider, you can help your child enter Kindergarten with confidence.

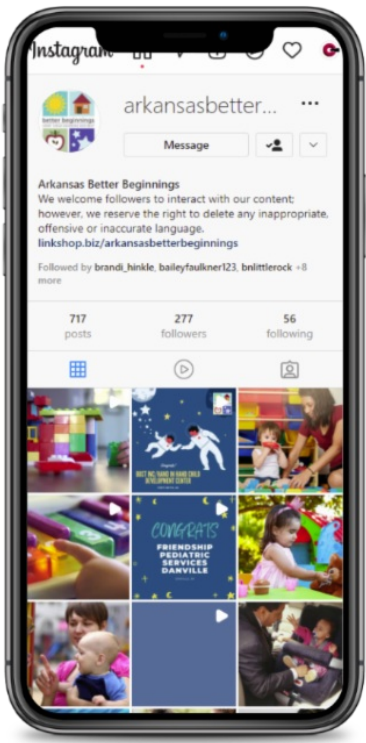
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WHAT IS BETTER BEGINNINGS?



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

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RESOURCES**



Better Beginnings is Arkansas' tiered quality rating and 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 Education and Office of Early Childhood.



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