



Literacy



Math



Science

Provider Buzz | December 2023



A NOTE FROM KELLI HILBURN

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

What a wonderful year it has been! I've had the pleasure of watching you [reach for the stars](#) and find joy in helping Arkansas's youngest learners grow and make big discoveries. Your commitment is appreciated, and your passion is extraordinary. You are the workforce behind the workforce – the engine that keeps everything running.

I know children can get restless as the holiday season approaches, so bring them the gift of learning with the three [math](#) resources full of play-based activities included in this edition of *The Buzz*. These activities help children learn the basic math skills they need for successful lifelong learning. You'll also see information on the free [curriculum](#) that is available to you on the Better Beginnings [website](#) and information on a new Kindergarten Readiness [section](#) to share with your client families.

The work you're doing is inspiring. You work tirelessly and deserve some time to rest this holiday season with those you love and cherish. I hope that's exactly what you get.

Happy holidays!

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



VIDEO CORNER

WATCH NOW

Shapes, colors, and numbers – oh my! Using playdough, cardboard, and other materials you can find almost anywhere, children can learn basic math concepts they need for future educational success. Watch the video below to learn more.



LEARNING RESOURCES

PLAY, LEARN, EXPLORE



Make It Math

The hands-on learning activities in this resource will have children identifying shapes, numbers, and colors in no time. Plus, they make for great counting practice!

View Resource

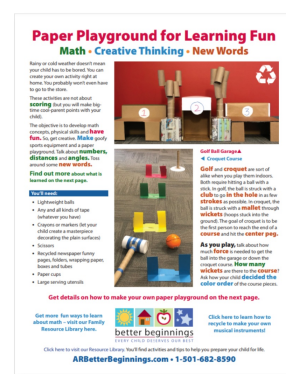
Español Version



3 Paths to Math

Looking for ways to instill math concepts in the children you teach? **Build It, Bake It, Book It**. This resource gives you easy, play-based ideas that will have children laughing while learning.

View Resource



Paper Playground

Need something to entertain children on an indoor play day? This activity is perfect! As children build, they learn important math concepts and creative thinking skills.

View Resource



LEARNING
IS FUN!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Kindergarten Readiness

Check out this new section on the Better Beginnings website dedicated to helping prepare children for Kindergarten. This section includes resources to help families and providers identify a range of skills, knowledge, and behaviors for children to master during their pre-Kindergarten year to enter Kindergarten with confidence. Share it with your client families today!

[Learn More](#)



Curriculum & Supplements

Not sure where to start when you come back to the classroom in January? Our curriculum and the supplements can help! Whether you teach infants, toddlers, or preschoolers, everything you need to begin 2024 is on the Better Beginnings website.

[Learn More](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mighty, Meaningful Math

Join our friends at A-State Childhood Services in a city near you and discover three exciting methods to empower children to be confident, capable, mathematical thinkers. This hands-on learning event is perfect for adults who work with children ages two to five. Click on the city of your choice to register.

- **Heber Springs** – Monday, December 4, 6-8 p.m.
- **Magnolia** – Tuesday, December 5, 6-8 p.m.
- **Fort Smith** – Saturday, December 9, 9-11 a.m.



BETTER BEGINNINGS STAR APPROVALS



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.



The following programs are now **6-star** Better Beginnings providers:

- Cedarville Head Start, Cedarville
- Dwight - RSD Preschool, Russellville
- SAU Tech Preschool, Camden



The following programs are now **5-star** Better Beginnings providers:

- Chicot Elementary Pre-K Program, Mabelvale
- Fair Park Elementary, Little Rock
- Gosnell Elementary ABC, Gosnell
- Little Rock School District Early Childhood/Geyer Springs, Little Rock
- Marion ABC Pre-K, West Memphis
- Mt. Judea Learning Center, Mount Judea
- Romine Early Childhood Pre-K, Little Rock
- Snuggle Bug Café, Conway
- Walker Pre-Kindergarten Center, Magnolia



The following programs are now **4-star** Better Beginnings providers:

- Camden Fairview ABC Preschool, Camden
- Camden Head Start, Early Head Start, and ABC, Camden
- CAPCA Head Start Searcy Center, Searcy
- CAPCA Head Start, Beebe
- CAPCA Head Start, Greenbrier
- Friendship Pediatric Services, West Fork
- Gentry Early Learning Academy, Gentry
- Gibbs Elementary, Little Rock
- J. B. Hunt Elementary Pre-K, Springdale
- Little Fox Trotter Academy, Fox
- Mena Preschool 2, Mena
- Midland Tiny Tots, Pleasant Plains
- Retta Brown Preschool, El Dorado
- UAMS Metro Head Start, Little Rock
- UAMS Pulaski Tech Head Start, Little Rock

THREE-STAR PROVIDERS

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

- Bright Haven Children's Learning Center, Springdale
- Kareer Kids CDC, Jacksonville
- My First School Jacksonville, Jacksonville
- Tiny Toes Daycare, Paragould
- Tiny Treasures Day Care, Conway

TWO-STAR PROVIDERS

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

- Central Elementary School, Forrest City
- Cribs and Crayons, Rison
- Excellence Learning Academy, Jacksonville
- First Southern Baptist Church Preschool, Bryant
- Kids for the Future of Helena Inc., Helena
- Kidspiration of Marion County, Yellville
- Kidspiration Pediatric Therapy Services Inc., Mountain Home
- Pulaski Heights UMC CLC, Little Rock
- Schmieding Kids First, Springdale
- The Little KlubHouse, Paragould

ONE-STAR PROVIDERS

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

- St. Catherine of Siena Child Care, Barling
- We Are The Future Daycare, Camden

Level Up Resource

Looking to increase your star level? Check out our [Provider Tools](#) to get started!

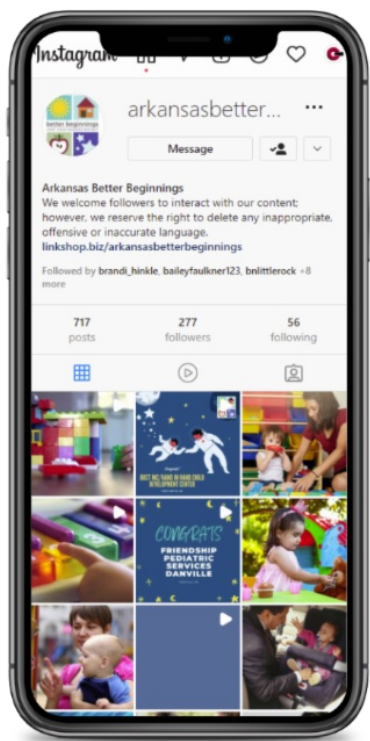
[Visit Our Website](#)

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.

[Visit Our Website](#)





**FOLLOW US
FOR MORE
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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