



BETTER BEGINNINGS ENCOURAGES FALL LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



Better Beginnings encourages families to get outside and use nature this fall to build math skills necessary to help prepare young children for kindergarten.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (October 25, 2022) – [Better Beginnings](http://BetterBeginnings.com), a program of the Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education focusing on giving children the best quality care, offers a seasonal spin on a fun yet simple activity to get children outside this fall and to extend [math](#) learning opportunities outside the classroom – sorting leaves.

“Sorting by color, shape, and size is a key tenant of mathematical thinking that children need to master before starting kindergarten,” said Better Beginnings Program Administrator Kelli Hilburn. “Mastering this skill builds a strong foundation for future mathematical learning in kindergarten and beyond.”

While playing outside this fall, children can [sort](#) leaves by color, shape, and size to build and improve their sorting and organizing skills. Being able to sort anything in these categories is an indicator of kindergarten readiness.

Children naturally start sorting things as early as [two years old](#). Parents with children nearing

kindergarten age can turn this developmental milestone into a game to help ensure children are attentive and retain the lesson. When using leaves and playing outside, children are also learning more about nature and the importance of outdoor play.

Since almost anything can be sorted, parents should encourage children to get as creative as they'd like with this activity while providing the necessary supervision.

For more outdoor play and math activities or to learn more about Better Beginnings, follow their social media channels on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#), or visit arbetterbeginnings.com.

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About Arkansas Better Beginnings:

[Better Beginnings](#) is Arkansas's 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 Human Services Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education](#). Better Beginnings connects Arkansas families with the information and care that helps children experience a safe, happy and healthy childhood.