

better beginnings



for Families buzz

Department of Human Services Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education

APRIL 2021

A NOTE FROM BETTER BEGINNINGS PROGRAM MANAGER DAWN JEFFREY



Parents and Families,

March is behind us and April showers have come and gone. Spring, we will miss you, but **Summer...hurry up!**

After all, summertime is our true love. **Swimming. Camping. Grilling and chilling!** It's just a more relaxed time of the year, am I right?

Sure, our routines change and it can become a bit hectic. **But this is one of the best times to make long-lasting memories with your child.**

Speaking of memories and since May is all about **literacy**, we've got the perfect project for you and your child to start this summer.

Try making a **Mother's Day Memory Book**. You can use a scrapbook or just a blank notebook. Make it your own! Start on **Mother's Day (May 9)** and capture your favorite memories throughout the year.

You see, we use our literacy skills in all that we do. So, as you **draw, write, and talk** through your project, your child is learning new words, developing communication skills, learning how to write and most importantly, making memories with you!

Then, on **Mother's Day 2022**, read about your memories together. You'll be amazed at how her literacy skills have improved in the past year!

Use these resources to create a few pages in your book!

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Better Beginnings with Books

Make one of your first pages a **list of books** and **challenge yourself** to read them with your child over the next year. You might read five or you might read 20. Just be sure to **read together every day!**



Bring Books to Life

Choose your favorite story book and **put on a show!** Engaging your child's imagination inspires him to think creatively. **Costumes, props and masks...OH MY!** He will learn so much by just playing pretend.



Making their Mark

Writing is critical to your child's early brain development. So, make room for **handwriting practice!** Practice her name, address and phone number. Not there yet? **Trace shapes or just let her doodle!**

Giving your child the gift of reading is a gift in itself! It's one he will use forever. Find more [**literacy resources**](#) in our [**Family Resource Library**](#).

All the best,

Dawn Jeffrey

Dawn Jeffrey M.S.E.

Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education
Program Manager for Better Beginnings

NATIONAL CHILD CARE PROVIDER DAY

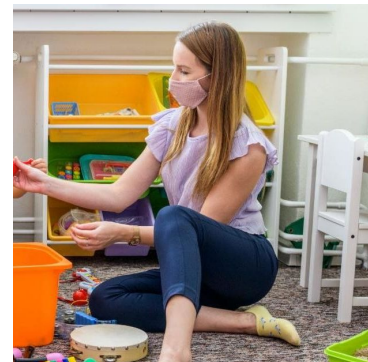
MAY 7, 2021



National Child Care Provider Day is coming up! It's next month, **May 7**. Arkansas providers are so **passionate** about your children. They work hard every day to provide your child with the highest **quality** care possible. They **teach** your child lessons he will carry with him the rest of his life. They **interact** with him in a way which engages his mind and inspires creativity. They form **meaningful relationships** with your child.

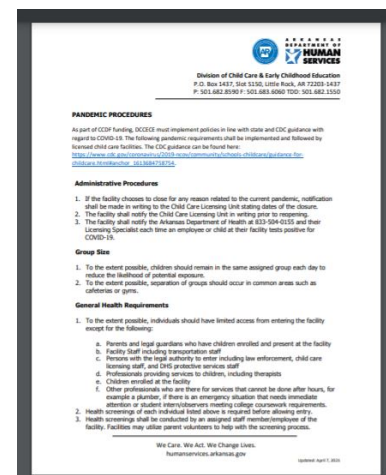
Take time to show your **appreciation** for your family's child care provider this year. Work with your child to write a thank you note or draw a picture. Take them a Sonic drink or just give them an extra elbow bump and say thanks.

It will mean the world to them, and they deserve it.



The Arkansas Department of Human Services' **Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education** keeps the health and well-being of your child top priority. To ensure safety, licensed child care facilities will operate by the **[PANDEMIC PROCEDURES FOUND HERE.](#)**

These procedures are written to follow state and CDC guidance. Find the **[CDC Guidance here.](#)**



FIND MORE COVID ADVICE AND RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES HERE

LITERACY RESOURCES



Remember, we use our literacy skills every day, in almost everything we do. **The earlier you start working on these with your child, the better.** The good news? **It's simple!** Since we use our literacy skills so often, there are many teaching opportunities throughout your normal day. From all skills, to all ages, **literacy is everywhere.** Check out the following resources to learn more.

9 TIPS TO BOOST YOUR BABY'S LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Talking to your baby will help him **learn words** quicker. **In fact, research says he will know 300 more words by age 2** than babies who aren't being talked to daily.



Check out this resource for tips.



9 SIMPLE WAYS TO ADVANCE YOUR TODDLER'S BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

Answer questions. Talk about your day. Ask about her day. Play pretend. Sing and dance. Act silly! All of these are likely things you do **every day**, and they are great for your child's **early brain development.**

Check out this resource to learn more.

CHECK OUT OUR
LATEST ARTICLE
IN PEEKABOO



BETTER BEGINNINGS, BETTER OPPORTUNITIES

A Special Note from Dawn Jeffrey



Spring reminds me of growth. Now, it could be the **warmer temperatures**, **longer days** and **brighter weather**, but when I think of growth, I can't help but be reminded of our **WHY** at Better Beginnings. Our why is simple, **your children**. It is our mission to help them grow in their learning, making sure they are **ready for Kindergarten**.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

WHAT IS BETTER BEGINNINGS?

A colorful illustration of a group of diverse children of various ethnicities and ages, all smiling and looking towards the viewer. They are arranged in a cluster, with some children in the foreground and others slightly behind.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUT](#)

OR, check us out on **social media**.

