

January 2020



A NOTE FROM BETTER BEGINNINGS PROGRAM MANAGER, DAWN JEFFREY



Notice something new? Does this edition of the *Buzz* look a little different to you? That's because it is! Did you make resolutions this year? We did, and it's all about **YOU!** This year, we are more dedicated than ever to show you who Better Beginnings is and **what Better Beginnings** does. So, your *Buzz* will be customized just for YOU and your child. This new **Parents and Families Buzz** will be dedicated to helping you enhance your child's early development, **even outside of the classroom.**

So, what about you? Did you make any resolutions? If not, no worries, we've got an idea! How about making it a goal to get as involved in your child's early education as possible. Let's get ***interactive!*** Have you seen our **How is Play a Learning Experience** resource in our **Family Resource Library**? It's full of good stuff, like this **How Children Learn tool**.

Check it out now! Fun and learning are just around the corner.

**Dawn Jeffrey M.S. E.**

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



### How Children Learn.

*Imagination is a key to learning. A child that can imagine she is a Viking can imagine that letters represent sounds. She can understand that numbers represent quantities.*

Preschool children don't learn the same way as school-age children. Preschool is not the time for work sheets and flash cards. Experts tell us play is a child's way of learning. Play helps children develop an understanding of how the world works.

**Learning the Quality Child Care Way**

In high quality child care, children learn by experience in activity centers. One center might be blocks or art. Another center might be dramatic play, reading or science.

Children direct their own play. They use creativity to invent their own use for toys. They make up stories. They experiment and make discoveries. Teachers ask questions and share insights.

Positive experiences like these create a love for learning that lasts a lifetime. They help children develop skills that lead to success in school and in life.

Is your preschooler ready for kindergarten? See the Kindergarten Readiness Checklist in our Resource Library. Just click the link below to view all of our family resources.

**FIND** Click the Find Child Care icon to find high quality child care near you.

**better beginnings**  
EVERY CHILD DESERVES OUR BEST

Click here to visit our Resource Library. You'll find activities and tips to help you prepare your child for life.

[www.ARBetterBeginnings.com](http://www.ARBetterBeginnings.com) • 1-800-445-3316

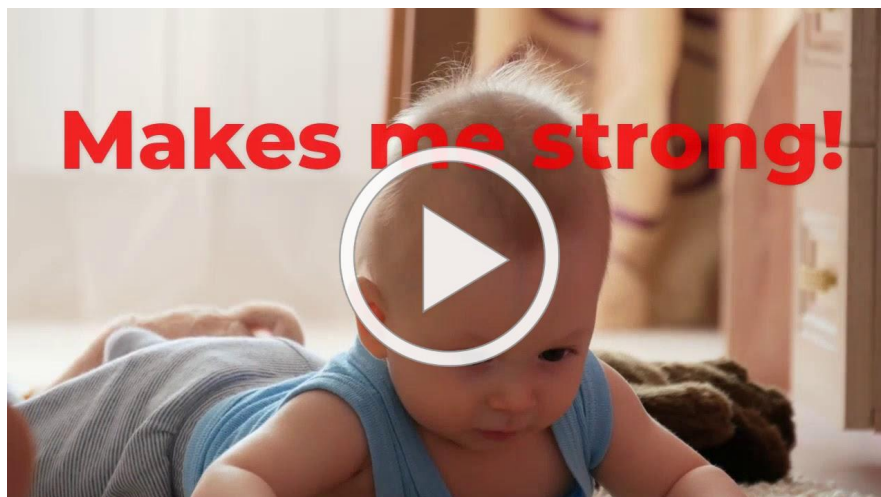
## HOW CHILDREN LEARN

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## MONTHLY RESOURCES



**TUMMY TO PLAY!**

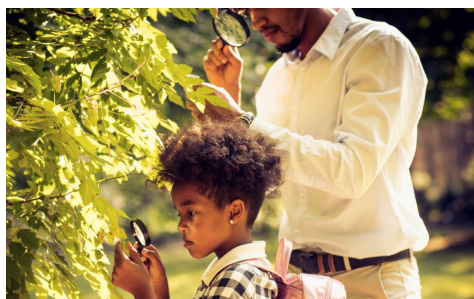


Awake is learning. Back to sleep and tummy to play keeps your baby **safe** and **strong**. Check out our [\*\*Your Child at Birth resource\*\*](#), or see [\*\*Preparing My Child for Life\*\*](#) to find health, safety and development resources, for children from birth to five.

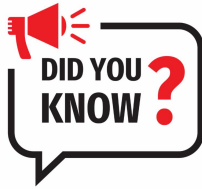


## DIG INTO SCIENCE!

Learning **outside** can help your child love **nature** AND **science**. Get outside and discover Mother Nature, then talk about what you learned at home! Try this Play, Explore, Learn Outdoors resource, visit our [\*\*Family Resource Library\*\*](#) to dig into our science today!







**Choosing Childcare** is easy with Better Beginnings on your side.

Learn how you can find appropriate care for your child when you utilize tools like our **Choosing Childcare Checklist** or find out if you qualify for **Help Paying for Childcare**

Remember, at **Better Beginnings**, we are dedicated to helping you find the highest quality child care and early education as possible.

Types of Child Care

Classroom Ratios

## What is **Better Beginnings**?



What is Better Beginnings? We help providers across the state provide your kiddos with **quality** child care and **early education**. We also connect families to learning resources that can enhance your child's development **outside of the classroom**.

Visit our website to learn more.

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



Better Beginnings is Arkansas's 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.

