

SEPTEMBER 2020



**A NOTE FROM BETTER BEGINNINGS
PROGRAM MANAGER DAWN JEFFREY**



Parents and Families,

Well, we did it. We blinked, and **it's here.**

In just a few weeks we will celebrate Better Beginnings' **10th anniversary.**

Since we can't gather together on this special day, **we're taking the party online--all. month. long!**

We hope you'll join us. **On October 12, we will start a fun 10 (school) day countdown to the big day,** which is

on October 25. These will be posted on our [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) pages, with fun resources and a **number of the day.**

But, we want to see how YOU celebrate too!

For a chance to be featured on our social channels or in one of these Buzz newsletters, **send us videos of your kiddos** using the number of the day. Pictures will work too! You can **drop them in a comment on our**

Facebook page, send via direct message or email them to arkansasbetterbeginnings@gmail.com.

Count them. Draw them. Sing them. Rhyme them!

Just have fun with it. We would love to see your kids' faces! We can't wait to see what you come up with.

Oh, and one more thing. If you haven't yet, will you take just a few minutes to complete [this survey](#)? Your feedback will be greatly appreciated.

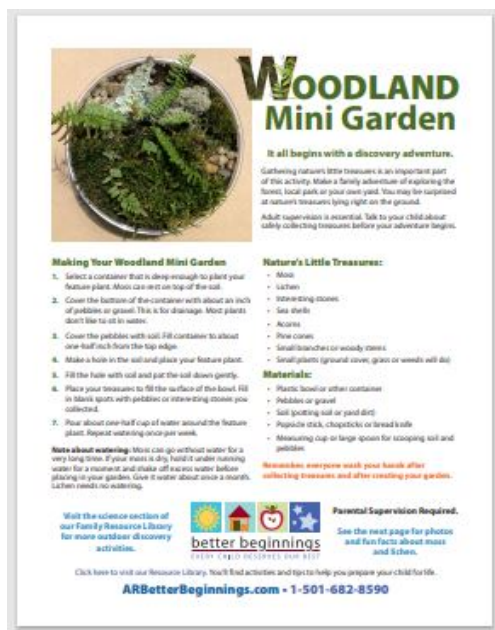
All the best.

Dawn Jeffrey

Dawn Jeffrey M.S. E.

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

CHECK OUT OUR NEW SCIENCE RESOURCE Woodland Mini Garden



WOODLAND Mini Garden

It all begins with a discovery adventure.

Gathering nature's little treasures is an important part of this activity. Make a family adventure of exploring the forest, local park or your own yard. You may be surprised at nature's treasures lying right on the ground. Adult supervision is essential. Talk to your child about safely collecting treasures before your adventure begins.

Making Your Woodland Mini Garden

1. Select a container that is deep enough to plant your feature plant. Moss can sit on top of the soil.
2. Cover the bottom of the container with about an inch of pebbles or gravel. This is for drainage. Most plants don't like to sit in water.
3. Cover the pebbles with soil. Fill container to about one-half inch from the top edge.
4. Make a hole in the soil and place your feature plant.
5. Fill the hole with soil and pat the soil down gently.
6. Place your treasures to fill the surface of the bowl. Fill in blank spots with pebbles or interesting stones you collected.
7. Pour about one-half cup of water around the feature plant. Repeat watering once per week.

Note about watering: Moss can go without water for a very long time. If your bowl is dry, hold it under running water for a moment and shake off excess water before placing in your garden. Give it water about once a month. Lichen needs no watering.

Nature's Little Treasures:

- Moss
- Lichen
- Interesting stones
- Saw shreds
- Acorns
- Pine cones
- Small acorns or or windy seeds
- Small plants (ground cover, grass or weeds will do)

Materials:

- Plastic bowl or other container
- Pebbles or gravel
- Soil (gathering soil or good dirt)
- Popcorn stick, chopsticks or bread's side
- Measuring cup or large spoon for scooping soil and pebbles

Remember: everyone wash your hands after collecting treasures and after creating your garden.

Visit the science section of our Family Resource Library for more outdoor discovery activities.

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Parental Supervision Required.

See the next page for photos and fun facts about moss and lichen.

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

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WOODLAND MINI GARDEN
Treasures You Might Discover

1. Moss comes in many shapes and features. Moss grows on trees and rocks, even in side-walk cracks.
2. Sometimes two types of moss grow together.
3. Some moss looks like a fern.
4. Moss and lichen grow on the same tree with tree ferns. Tree ferns are not a good plant for your woodland garden. They do not like to be detached from their home on the tree. In dry times, tree ferns can dry up and look dead until it rains. Then they are pretty again.
5. These tiny lichens are called gale cups. Like moss, lichen has many forms.
6. Lichen growing on a stone.
7. Reindeer lichen is found in warm and cold climates. It can be found in Arkansas and may look like a little white/grey tumbleweed.
8. Ruffed lichen on a tree.
9. Cuck is a fungus that indicates disease in a tree.

Visit the science section of our Family Resource Library for science experiments and activities.

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See the Stride and Steer Creativity resource for more ways to extend the learning experience.

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

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Check out our newest **science resource**. Our **Woodland Mini Garden** will teach your child about living things. Talk about how plants start as seeds and need certain things to grow, just like how **your child starts as a baby and needs things to grow into a grown-up like you!**

Check out our Family Resource Library here.

MAKE IT RAIN!



Turn your next **rainy day** around with this **Rainstorm in a Jar** science resource.
Talk about where **rain** comes from and how it helps the **Earth grow**.
Who knew a cloudy day could be so **magical**?

Find more Science resources here.

ATTENTION PARENTS!



Parents, did you know you might qualify for **child care financial assistance**? If you are an **essential worker**, chances are you do, regardless of your income eligibility!

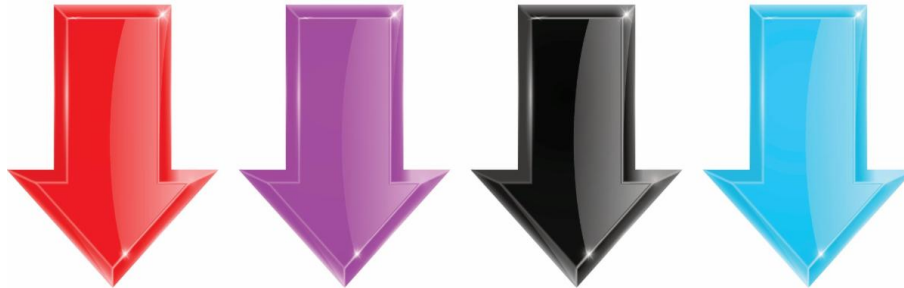
Submit your application here.

WAIT! WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK!

Don't leave before completing our survey!

CLICK HERE!

It only takes a few minutes!



Better Beginnings Family Survey

[Take My Survey](#)

What is **Better Beginnings?**

Visit our website to find out.

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.



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