



Literacy



Math



Science



**better beginnings**

EVERY CHILD DESERVES OUR BEST



**A NOTE FROM  
KELLI HILBURN**  
**PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR**

February is I Love to Read month and that means we get to talk all things books! Reading helps young children develop social and emotional skills to **reach for the stars** and be successful in kindergarten and beyond. It's also fun for both adults and children, especially when adding fun voices and noises.

That's why we're featuring the *Raising a Reader* series of resources from our **Family Resource Library** in today's Buzz. These resources explain how children as young as **infants to toddlers** and **preschoolers** relate to books and show how books can aid in their development. Learn more about the importance of reading to children by checking out the **10 Minutes Matter** material from the Arkansas Department of Human Services.

Also, in this month's Buzz is the nomination information for the next **Arkansas Outstanding Early Childhood Professional**, links for upcoming **provider calls**, a new literacy **resource** from our friends at **Child Care Aware of West Central Arkansas**, upcoming training opportunities, and the latest star approvals. So, keep reading!

Until next time,

*Kelli Hilburn*



JOIN US IN OUR GOAL THIS YEAR TO  
**REACH FOR THE STARS**  
CLICK TO LEARN MORE



## VIDEO CORNER

**WATCH NOW** 

Watch the video below to see Arkansas child care providers read the bedtime counting story, Ten Twinkly Stars.



Learn more about the importance of reading aloud to children at least 10 minutes per day by checking out the [10 Minutes Matter](#) material on the Arkansas Department of Human Services [website](#).



# LEARNING RESOURCES

PLAY,  
LEARN,  
EXPLORE



**Raising a Reader**  
*Babies' First Year*

**At a Glance**

**0-12 months**  
Babies can't yet read, but high-contrast images and simple sounds are the best way to introduce them to books.

**0-3 months**  
Use books to introduce your child to the world of books.

**3-6 months**  
Babies are beginning to understand the connection between words and images.

**6-12 months**  
Babies are beginning to understand the connection between words and images.

**12-24 months**  
Babies are beginning to understand the connection between words and images.

Click here to visit our Resource Library. You'll find activities and tips to help you prepare your child for life.  
**ARBetterBeginnings.com • 1-501-682-8590**

**Raising a Reader**  
*Toddlers 1-2 Years*

**4-6 months**  
A time and a place for books? Always, everywhere!

**Books open minds.**

**Make reading fun!**

Click here to visit our Resource Library. You'll find activities and tips to help you prepare your child for life.  
**ARBetterBeginnings.com • 1-501-682-8590**

**Raising a Reader**  
*Preschoolers 3-4 Years*

**What You Can Do**

**Play together.** Make up stories. Use your imagination. Play pretend. Read together. Talk about what they mean. Keep the conversation going. Let her read to you. Remember, talk, sing, play, read. Learning is fun!

Click here to visit our Resource Library. You'll find activities and tips to help you prepare your child for life.  
**ARBetterBeginnings.com • 1-501-682-8590**

## Raising A Reader: Babies

It's never too early read aloud to children. This resource provides tips on what types of books are best for babies and the importance of high-contrast images for babies' brains.

[View Resource](#)

## Raising A Reader: Toddlers

Toddlers can hold books and turn pages. Books with lots of pictures are good brain stimulation. Don't worry if the book finds its way into your child's mouth. That's normal, so be sure to purchase durable books.

[View Resource](#)

## Raising A Reader: Preschoolers

Most of the skills children need for kindergarten develop naturally through play and reading with you! Learn what language skills children need in order to be ready for school with this teaching resource.

[View Resource](#)



LEARNING  
IS FUN!

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES





## Arkansas Outstanding Early Childhood Professional Nomination

Do you have a colleague who goes above and beyond for their students and client-families? Nominate them to be the 2023 Arkansas Outstanding Early Childhood Professional! Find the nomination packet here. The nomination deadline is **February 17, 2023**, so don't wait.

[Make A Nomination](#)

## Playing With Language

[Child Care Aware of West Central Arkansas](#) offers a book to help children notice and manipulate the sounds of language. Download it for free today and incorporate many of these fun activities into your classroom!

[Download the Book](#)



## *Provider Calls*

Don't miss the next provider call with representatives from the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education. Join via Zoom at noon on Tuesday, February 7.

[Learn More](#)

## *Super Saturday*

Mark your calendars! Arkansas State University Childhood Services is offering two all-day training opportunities in the new year! Join them in Clarksville on March 11, 2023 and in Forrest City on April 15, 2023. Keep an eye on their [website](#) for more information, including how to register.

[Visit the Site](#)



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.

## THREE STAR PROVIDERS

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

- Pennylane Child Care Center, Rogers
- Chris Eichler DCFH, Romance
- Ms. Carrie's Day School Inc., Conway

## TWO STAR PROVIDERS

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

- School Kids Connection Butterfield, Fayetteville
- Lovely Sunshine Learning Center LR, Conway
- Happy Place Daycare, Van Buren
- School Kids Connection Asbell, Fayetteville
- Miss Debbie's DCFH, Hensley
- Tiny Treasures Day Care, Conway
- Guy Perkins Preschool, Guy
- Forest Heights Elementary Care, Little Rock
- Jefferson Care, Little Rock

## ONE STAR PROVIDERS

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

- Tiny Tots Preschool, Rogers
- Schmieding Kids First, Springdale

- UAMS Kids First Newport, Newport
- Lakewood Methodist Mothers Day Out, North Little Rock
- Harding Early Learning, Searcy

## Level Up Resource

Looking to increase your star level or to start your journey to become a Better Beginnings provider? Check out the [Provider Tools](#) section of our website to find the information you need to start your journey.

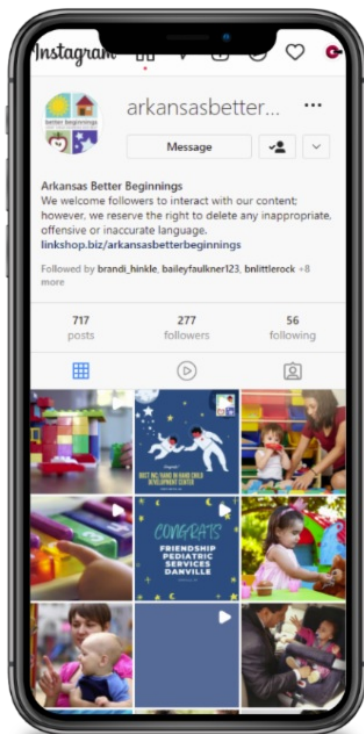
Visit our Website

# 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's tiered 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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with



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