



Literacy



Math



Science

Provider Buzz | February 2024



We started the New Year off strong by setting our sights on quality. Let's keep the momentum going with [literacy](#). I enjoy reading and have fond memories to this day of the children's books that made up my childhood reading adventures.

You can create similar strong memories for the children in your care by making reading fun. By using funny voices or exploring in depth the content of the books you read, you can build the foundation for children to become lifelong readers and help prepare them for kindergarten. Check out the resources we included in this edition of *The Buzz* for play-based, fun literacy activities.

Don't forget to encourage your client-families to join in the fun by sharing these [resources](#) with them. As their partner, you can help them bring the joy of reading into their home. Signing up for [Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#) is a great way to start.

There's more to see so keep reading through the *Buzz* and share it with your colleagues so they too can join us as we continue [reaching for the stars](#) in 2024.

Until next time,

Kelli Hilburn
BETTER BEGINNINGS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



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

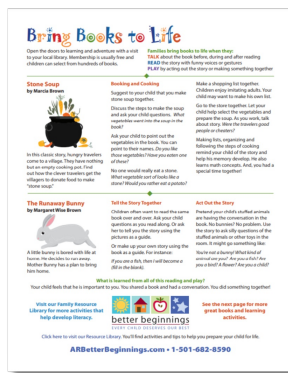


Reading to children helps them develop a strong vocabulary and learn new things. Make reading fun and educational with *Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?* Check out this video featuring your colleagues across the state reading this book.



PLAY,
LEARN,
EXPLORE

LEARNING RESOURCES



What do you see?

There are many ways to read *Brown Bear, Brown Bear* that are fun and cultivate learning, such as pausing to talk about the animals or singing the words to a familiar children's song.

[View Resource](#)

Bring Books to Life

Open the doors to learning and creativity with this resource. By doing an activity related to a book or reading a story using funny voices, children can experience the fun reading brings.

[View Resource](#)

Better Beginnings with Books

Want to get age-appropriate books for your classroom but don't know where to start? This is the list for you. These books are sure to bring the joy of literacy into your classroom.

[View Resource](#)



LEARNING
IS FUN!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library



Help your client-families bring literacy home by sharing information on Dolly Parton's Imagination Library with them. All children birth to five can participate.

[Learn More](#)

Free Curriculum for You

Find research-based and age appropriate classroom curriculum on the Better Beginnings website. This curriculum is full of creative learning activities for children from infancy to preschool.

[Learn More](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Taking Care of Yourself Everyday: Director's Self-Care Workshop
Harrison, Ark. | Tuesday, February 13, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Explore self-care strategies to enhance your well-being. You'll discuss effective stress management techniques with your fellow directors that will help you be the best leader for your staff and the children in your care.

[Register](#)



BETTER BEGINNINGS STAR APPROVALS

QUALITY
CARE!



Congratulations to these providers! It's exciting to see your commitment to quality on display as you [reach for the stars](#). Find everything you need to keep reaching on the Better Beginnings [website](#).



The following program is now a **6-star** Better Beginnings provider:

- ABC Children's Academy Dover Campus 3, Dover
- Crowley's Ridge Educational Cooperative, Lake City
- Mrs. Melissa's Preschool, Ash Flat
- Ms. Beth's House, Siloam Springs



The following programs are now **5-star** Better Beginnings providers:

- Atkins ABC, Atkins
- Crowley's Ridge Educational Cooperative, Caraway
- Dawson Co-op/Jessieville, Jessieville
- Dream Early Childhood & Afterschool, Sherwood
- Hugs Preschool, Belleville
- JB Hunt Elementary Pre-K, Springdale
- Jones Elementary Pre-K, Springdale
- Marked Tree Elementary ABC, Marked Tree
- Shaw Elementary Pre-K, Springdale



The following programs are now **4-star** Better Beginnings providers:

- ABC Children's Academy of Russellville Site 1 Annex, Russellville
- Dawson Co-op/Bismarck ABC, Bismarck
- Dawson Co-op/Mountain Pine ABC, Mountain Pine
- Early Childhood Center, Springdale
- Hector School District, Hector
- Monitor Pre-K, Springdale
- Paris School District Bright Opportunities Program, Paris



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

- ARcare Center for Education, Searcy
- MCAEOC Wiley Center, Blytheville

- Savvy Kids Learning Center Inc., Little Rock

TWO-STAR PROVIDERS

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

- After School Program at Lisa Fayetteville, Fayetteville
- BGCBC @ Fairview, Rogers
- BGCBC @ Janie Darr, Rogers
- Bloom Pediatric Academy, Paragould
- Discovery STEAM @ Willowbrook, Bentonville
- Discovery STEAM Program @ Centerton Gamble Elementary, Centerton
- Francis A Allen School, Little Rock
- Giggles & Grins Preschool, Green Forest
- Kids For the Future of Western Benton County LLC, Decatur
- LRSD Care Program Washington Elementary, Little Rock
- The Learning Center, Jonesboro

ONE-STAR PROVIDERS

There are no new **1-star** Better Beginnings providers.

Level Up Resource

Looking to increase your star level? Check out our [Provider Tools](#) to get started!

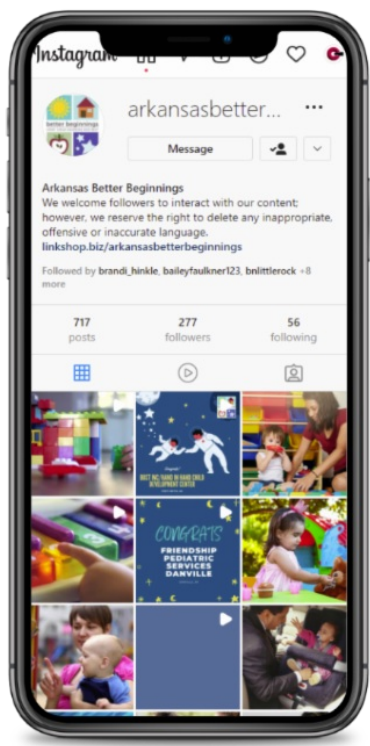
Visit our Website



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' 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 Education and Office of Early Childhood.



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