



Literacy



Math



Science

Provider Buzz | January 2024



## A NOTE FROM KELLI HILBURN

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

I love to start each new year reflecting on the previous one. While reflecting on 2023, I grew more and more proud of what you accomplished and the way you cared for the children in your facility. What you do every day helps keep them safe and healthy, and helps ensure children are ready for [kindergarten](#) and life.

I was lucky enough to end 2023 by getting out and visiting some of you in person. It reminded me of why I am so proud of the work you are doing in Arkansas. I saw children who were engaged and learning while having fun and making memories. It was so exciting to visit with providers who are reaching for the stars.

I invite you to join me in making 2024 the Year of Quality. Working together, we can help ensure the children of Arkansas have access to the highest-quality care. How will you pursue quality this year? Maybe you're ready for the next [star level](#). Have you achieved 6-star status? Consider learning a new skill or using a new curriculum that can further elevate quality. However you choose to pursue quality, the Better Beginnings team is here to be your partner.

To inspire your pursuit of quality, this edition of *The Buzz* includes interactive [science](#) experiments that cultivate curiosity. You'll also see an early intervention [service](#) available that supports the children and families in your care.

Remember, the Better Beginnings [website](#) is available 24/7 and has the resources you need to bring fun into the classroom and [reach for the stars](#). Check it out today! While you're at it, make your [Arkansas Outstanding Early Childhood Professional](#) nomination, too!

Wishing you a happy new year,

**Kelli Hilburn**  
BETTER BEGINNINGS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR  
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD





and then we'll get started making our rainbow first layer,



## Rainstorm in a Jar

Rainy days don't have to be boring. They can inspire a fun learning opportunity! Teach children how rain works with this fun activity.

details on how to do this in this resource.

children exploring all the winter world has to offer.

[View Resource](#)

[View Resource](#)

[View Resource](#)



LEARNING  
IS FUN!



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### First Connections Early Intervention

First Connections partners with local and state agencies and families to help make sure any developmental delays are spotted early so children get the support they need.

[Learn More](#)



### Kindergarten Readiness

Help young children get ready for kindergarten with the resources found on our website. Share these resources with your client-families as you work together to help the children in your care prepare for educational and lifelong success.

[Learn More](#)

### AOECP Nominations Open

It's time to nominate the next Arkansas Outstanding Early Childhood Professional! Since 1988, this award honors a hard-working early childhood professional who makes a positive impact in the lives of the children they serve. Know someone who fits that description? Nominate them today!

[Make a Nomination](#)







# HEALTH AND SAFETY

TIPS FOR  
YOUR  
CLASS



Winter is upon us and that isn't going to stop children from playing outside. Here are some helpful tips to keep children safe this winter:

1. Dress infants and children warmly for outdoor activities.
  - Dressing children in several thin layers is recommended for optimal warmth. A good rule of thumb from the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) is to dress children in one more layer than an adult would wear in the same conditions. Ask your client-families to pack additional clothing, if necessary, for their child to remain warm while playing outside this winter.
2. Utilize winter accessories.
  - Boots, gloves, and a hat go a long way in keeping children warm alongside thin layers and a coat. Ask your client-families to bring these items with them at drop-off.



BETTER BEGINNINGS

## STAR APPROVALS

QUALITY  
CARE!



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.



The following programs are now **6-star** Better Beginnings providers:

- Crossett Pre-K, Crossett
- Omaha Preschool, Omaha
- Taylor ABC, Taylor
- Hot Springs Child Care Center III, Hot Springs
- Good Morning Sunshine Preschool, Danville
- Western Grove Learning Center, Western Grove



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

- His Little Lambs, Clarksville
- Hot Springs Child Care II, Hot Springs
- Jada Sims Academy, Wynne
- Jellybean Junction Preschool, Monticello
- Mt. Judea ABC Preschool, Mount Judea
- Oark ABC Preschool, Oark
- Sallie Cone Preschool, Conway
- Two Rivers Preschool Program, Plainview
- ABC Children's Academy Russellville Site 2, Russellville
- Evening Shade Early Head Start, Evening Shade
- Greenbrier ABC Eastside Preschool, Greenbrier



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

- AEL Airport Blvd, Bentonville
- Alpena ABC Preschool, Alpena
- Bentonville 14th Street EHS, Bentonville
- Cave City ABC Preschool, Cave City
- Ellen Smith Head Start Center, Fayetteville
- Fouke ABC Preschool, Fouke
- Hot Springs Child Care Center, Hot Springs
- Jasper Preschool, Jasper
- Lead Hill ABC Preschool, Lead Hill
- Mt Ida Head Start, Mount Ida
- Seventh Street Elementary, North Little Rock
- Sutton Elementary Preschool, Fort Smith
- Wonderview School District Preschool, Hattiesville
- Friendship Community Care Inc., Siloam Springs
- Greenbrier ABC Westside Preschool, Greenbrier
- His House Children's Learning Center and Preschool, Rogers



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

- First Step Inc, Fordyce
- Crosskids Child Development Center, Beebe
- Just Like Home Early Learning Center, Fayetteville
- Turquoise Squirrel Learning Center, Morrilton
- Lakepoint ARVAC Head Start, Russellville
- Arkansas Early Learning Paragould Early Head Start, Paragould
- Busy Being Me Preparatory, Pine Bluff
- Kids R Us, Eudora



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

- TC'S Learning Academy LLC, Bay
- Van Buren County Special School, Choctaw
- BGCBC Bonnie Grimes, Rogers
- BGCBC Tucker, Lowell
- Carousel Day Service Center of Crossett Inc, Crossett
- Rainbow Learning & Therapy Center School Age, Nashville
- BGCBC Old Wire, Rogers
- BGCBC Frank Tillery, Rogers
- BGCBC Northside, Rogers
- BGCBC Westside, Rogers
- BGCBC Joe Mathias, Rogers
- The Learning Center of North Arkansas, Huntsville Campus, Huntsville

- Pediatrics Plus Developmental Preschool, Little Rock
- Childcare Network #301, Conway

## Star Level Kit

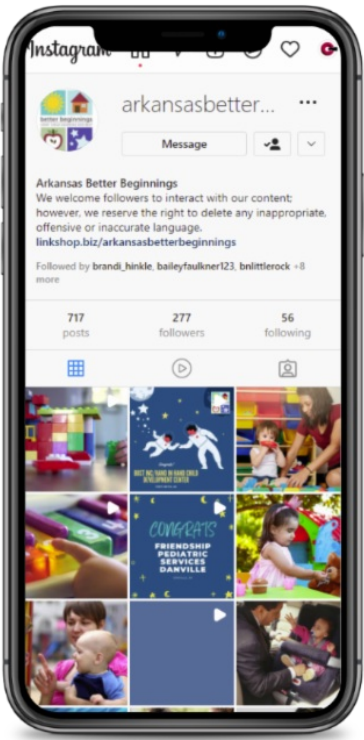
Congratulations on reaching that next star level! Share your accomplishment with your client families and community with the resources located in the [Star Level Kit](#) on the Better Beginnings website.

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' 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.



Better Beginnings | OEC, Attn: Better Beginnings, PO Box 1437, Slot S150, Little Rock, AR 72203-1437

[Unsubscribe](#) [info@arbetterbeginnings.com](mailto:info@arbetterbeginnings.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [info@arbetterbeginnings.com](mailto:info@arbetterbeginnings.com) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!