



Literacy



Math



Science

Provider Buzz | January 2025



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EVERY CHILD DESERVES OUR BEST



**A NOTE FROM
KELLI HILBURN**

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Happy New Year!

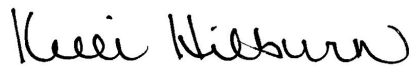
January is a great time to set intentions for the new year and refocus on our mission to provide high-quality early care and education to children and families in Arkansas. By resetting your focus, you can renew your commitment to obtaining that next star level,

learning a new classroom management skill, and helping children get ready for kindergarten. Your work impacts the future of the children, families, and communities that make up our state.

Another goal you can set for the year is to bring even more play-based learning activities into your classroom. For inspiration, we've included three [science](#) resources in this edition of the *Buzz*. You'll also find information to nominate a colleague for the Arkansas Outstanding Early Childhood Professional award, a direct link to a [toolkit](#) to start pursuing that next star level, details about the new school readiness [program](#) replacing Kid Care, and the latest round of star approvals.

You did amazing work in 2024. Better Beginnings is proud to be your partner to help you [reach for the stars](#) in 2025.

Until next time,



Kelli Hilburn
BETTER BEGINNINGS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



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



**VIDEO
CORNER**

WATCH NOW 🍿

Children are naturally curious about the world around them and how things work. Show them how salt melts ice with this simple activity. Find the video in Español [here](#).



SCIENCE FUN!

SCIENCE RESOURCES



5 Great Activities for a Wonderful Winter

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Arkansas Resource Library

Children need to play outside every day, even in winter. Check out our list of 5 great outdoor activities for your child to enjoy this winter. We've included some ideas for snow, but if you don't have snow, we've included some ideas for winter weather.

1. Get out in a winter jacket!
Take a walk in your neighborhood or local park and observe what children have and don't have. Make a list of things you see that are different from what you see in the summer. You can also make a list of things you see that are the same as in the summer.

2. Make bird feeders
You can make a bird feeder by taking the neck off of a plastic bottle and putting it on a string. You can also use a plastic bottle and a string to make a bird feeder. You can also use a plastic bottle and a string to make a bird feeder.

3. Make snow globes
Snow globes are a fun way to remember a special place. You can make a snow globe by putting water in a jar and adding some glitter. You can also make a snow globe by putting water in a jar and adding some glitter.

4. Science with ice
Put some water in a glass and freeze it overnight. Remove the ice cube and see how it melts. You can also put some water in a glass and freeze it overnight. Remove the ice cube and see how it melts.

5. Play games
There are many winter games that you can play with your child. You can also play some winter games that you can play with your child.

Click here to visit our Resource Library, find all the activities and tips to help you prepare your child for life.
ARBetterBeginnings.com • 1-501-682-8590

OIL AND WATER EXPERIMENTS

Some Liquids Are So Dense

Why don't oil and water mix? The answer begins with molecules. Molecules are tiny particles that make up everything. Some molecules are made of just one atom. They are hydrogen or more atoms. They are oxygen. They are carbon. They are nitrogen. They are sulfur. They are phosphorus. They are calcium. They are iron. They are copper. They are zinc. They are lead. They are gold. They are silver. They are platinum. They are palladium. They are rhodium. They are ruthenium. They are technetium. They are rhenium. They are hafnium. They are tantalum. They are niobium. They are molybdenum. They are chromium. They are manganese. They are iron. They are cobalt. They are nickel. They are copper. They are zinc. They are gallium. They are germanium. They are arsenic. They are selenium. They are bromine. They are krypton. They are xenon. They are radon. They are francium. They are radium. They are actinium. They are thorium. They are protactinium. They are uranium. They are neptunium. They are plutonium. They are americium. They are curium. They are berkelium. They are californium. They are einsteinium. They are fermium. They are mendelevium. They are nobelium. They are lawrencium.

See what looks like in this easy experiment.

Step 1: Fill a glass about two-thirds full with tap water.
Step 2: Add a couple of drops of food coloring and stir.
Step 3: Add cooking oil to about 80% of the glass. Watch carefully!
Step 4: See the results and play!

What's happening? Here's the science:
Salt water is denser than fresh water. It has more salt in it. So when you put salt water in a glass, it sinks to the bottom. The same thing happens with oil. Oil is less dense than water. So when you put oil in a glass, it floats on top.

Don't miss the full Experiment! Experiment should always have parental participation.
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Arkansas Resource Library
Learn more about the diversity of life we see every day.
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Sticks and Stones Creativity

Stick figures are a fun way to remember a special place. You can make a stick figure by using sticks and stones. You can also make a stick figure by using sticks and stones.

Don't forget to Get Monthly with Your Buddy!
Sign up here.

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Activities for a Wonderful Winter

Outdoor play is a year-round activity. Check out this resource for safe, fun winter activities that can help keep your child active. View the resource in Español [here](#).

[View Resource](#)

Oil & Water Experiments

It's not just a saying. Oil and water really don't mix. Show children why with the activities in this resource. View the resource in Español [here](#).

[View Resource](#)

Sticks and Stones Creativity

Nature is a great classroom. Explore the outdoors with children and help them safely gather leaves, twigs, and more so they can begin to better understand the world around them. View the resource in Español [here](#).

[View Resource](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

LEARNING IS FUN!

It's that time again! Nominate one of your colleagues to be named this year's Arkansas Outstanding Early Childhood Professional. This award honors the hard work and achievements made by an amazing educator in the early care and education field.

You have until Friday, January 31 so nominate someone today!

[Make a Nomination](#)



[NEW School Readiness Assistance System](#)

The Office of Early Childhood launched the new School Readiness System in December to replace Kid Care. The new system replaces outdated technology with a more user-friendly option for families to apply and receive support for child care. Check out the new site to learn more.

[Learn More](#)

[Provider Tools](#)

Start 2025 off by increasing the quality of your care for your community. Check out our Provider Tools to get started on your Better Beginnings journey today.

[Learn More](#)





Monthly Provider Call *Tuesday, January 6, Noon*

Zoom with representatives from OEC to hear the latest news and updates from the early care and education field. Find the link and schedule on the Better Beginnings website.

[Visit our Website](#)

Pre-K R.I.S.E Spring Cohorts *Tuesday, January 14*

Registration for three spring Pre-K Rise LETRS Cohorts is now open. The course will begin on Tuesday, January 14 and run through May 2025. Pre-K R.I.S.E is a program dedicated to helping our youngest learners love reading for life. For more information and to register, visit the Pre-K R.I.S.E website.

[Learn More](#)



BETTER BEGINNINGS
**STAR
APPROVALS**

QUALITY
CARE!



Congratulations on reaching that next star level! Share your achievement with your client-families and community using our [Star Kit](#). Find it on our website today.



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

- Buffalo Island Central - East, Leachville



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

- Bradford School Day Care, Bradford
- Ozark School District ABC Program, Ozark



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

- Early Horizons Child Development Center, Salem
- Little Sprouts Learning Center, Little Rock
- Oak Ave Head Start/ Early Head Start, Springdale
- Pre-K Daisy Bates Elementary School, Little Rock

THREE STAR PROVIDERS

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

- Burks Daycare & Learning Academy, Brinkley
- Victory Childcare Center LLC 2, El Dorado
- Dream Infant & Toddler Development Center, Sherwood
- Hope Academy, Little Rock
- Lil Lions Daycare LLC, Bismarck
- Wonderful Beginnings Learning Center LLC, Little Rock
- Westside Elementary School, Searcy

TWO STAR PROVIDERS

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

- Achieve More Academy Scholarmade, Little Rock
- Dawson Co-op and South Pike County, Murfreesboro
- Kids Place Learning Center, Inc. DBA Kidspot, Walnut Ridge
- Kids Unlimited Learning Academy of Siloam Springs, Siloam Springs

Level Up Resource

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

Visit our Website



**WHAT IS
BETTER BEGINNINGS?**

Better Beginnings means better opportunities. Investing in quality early care and education 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 and improvement system for child care, early education, and school-aged programs that have gone above and beyond the state minimum requirements. Better Beginnings is administered by the Arkansas Department of Education Office of Early Childhood.



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