



Literacy



Math



Science

Provider Buzz | January 2023



Happy New Year!

We're halfway through our year of [reaching for the stars](#), so we want to celebrate YOU and your achievements! You've done an outstanding job on this journey so far. Our star approval lists have grown each month. It's inspiring to see how hard you work to provide the highest quality care possible. If you haven't already, tell your community and client families about your achievement using the [star-level kits](#) on the Better Beginnings website. Increasing your star level is always worthy of celebration, especially with a special announcement concerning star levels 4, 5, and 6 coming soon.

Do you know what else is worth celebrating? Children learning through play. In this month's edition of the *Buzz*, we have play-based [science](#) activities you can incorporate in your classroom or share with your client families from the [Family Resource Library](#). Keep reading to find these resources, so you can bring playing and learning into your classroom.

As you keep reading, you'll find information on the free [curriculum](#) supplements available on the Better Beginnings [website](#) and details on the monthly [provider calls](#). Be sure to check those out. The next call is happening Tuesday, January 3.

We're proud to be your partner in your service to the children and families of Arkansas. You are the workforce behind the workforce. What you do every day matters and is worthy of celebration. So, please, join me in a New Year's resolution to keep reaching for the stars.

Until next time,

Kelli Hilburn
BETTER BEGINNINGS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR
DIVISION OF CHILD CARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



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



**VIDEO
CORNER**

WATCH NOW

See how the magic of molecules works in this video and replicate for the children in your classroom.





**PLAY,
LEARN,
EXPLORE**

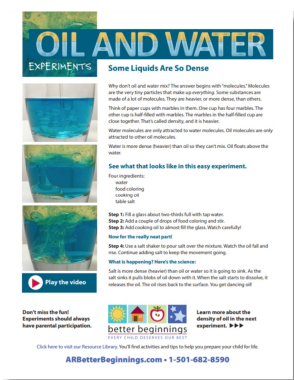
LEARNING RESOURCES





Sensory Play

This is a great resource for infants and toddlers who are beginning to play with their food. Through sensory play, children



Oil & Water Experiments

Oil and water don't mix. Well, to be more accurate, their molecules don't. It's a scientific principle, but it's magic to



Activities for a Wonderful Winter

Don't let the cold weather stop the fun. Winter has much to offer, so bundle up the kids and take them outside for winter wonder-

develop new skills and explore different textures of the world around them in a safe way.

[View Resource](#)

a young mind. Bring this fun activity to your classroom to awe and inspire your students.

[View Resource](#)

fun.

[View Resource](#)



LEARNING
IS FUN!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Curriculum and Supplements

Are you in need of research-based, age and developmentally appropriate classroom curriculum? Look no further than the Better Beginnings website. Our free curriculum is available for infant, toddler, and preschool teachers to provide creative learning activities for children.

[Browse Curriculum](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Provider Calls

Don't miss a call with the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education. Learn more about the types of calls and how you can join them on the Better Beginnings website. Our next call is scheduled for Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

[Learn More](#)



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 program is now a **3-star** Better Beginnings provider:

- Trucks and Tiaras Learning Center, Rogers

TWO STAR PROVIDERS

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

- Kidtopia Daycare & Early Learning Center, Texarkana
- The After School Program at DTSOI, Springdale
- The After School Program at Lisa Academy Rogers, Rogers
- Kidspot Marion, Inc., Marion
- Care Martin Luther King, Little Rock
- Care Fair Park Elementary, Little Rock
- Care Carver Elementary, Little Rock

ONE STAR PROVIDERS

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

- UAMS Kids First Warren, Warren
- UAMS Kids First, Little Rock
- UAMS Kids First Magnolia, Magnolia
- UAMS Kids First Searcy, Searcy
- UAMS Kids First Morrilton, Morrilton
- UAMS Kids First Pocahontas, Pocahontas
- UAMS Kids First Fort Smith, Fort Smith
- Giggle Bug Daycare, Springdale
- UAMS Kids First Pine Bluff, Pine Bluff
- Little Peeps Palace Childcare, Jonesboro
- UAMS Kids First Mountain View, Mountain View

Congratulations to these providers! Thank you for everything you do to keep Arkansas' children safe, nourished, and well. If you are interested in becoming a Better Beginnings provider or moving up in star ratings, click the button below!

Provider Star Ratings

Level Up Resource

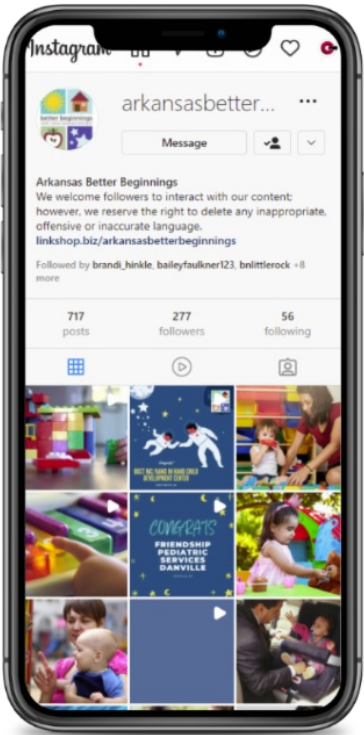
Looking to increase your star level or to start your journey to become a Better Beginnings provider? Check out the [Provider Tools](#) section of our website to find the information you need to start your journey.

Visit our Website



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



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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