



Literacy



Math



Science

Family Buzz | January 2024



## A NOTE FROM KELLI HILBURN

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

I'm so excited about all 2024 has to offer because of the amazing work you child care providers did in 2023. Children across our state made a lot of progress in their learning and development with the help of their providers and, more importantly, YOU.

As your child's first teacher, you play the primary role in your child's life. You can start your child off on the right foot by preparing them for kindergarten at home. To help you, we created a section on our [website](#) dedicated to [kindergarten readiness](#). This section provides tools for partnering with your child care provider to get your child kindergarten ready. These resources can help your child build the skills, knowledge, and behaviors needed to enter kindergarten with confidence.

What your child learns in their earliest years lays a foundation for lifelong success. Using play-based resources as your guide, such as the [science](#) activities included later in this newsletter, you can equip your child for an exciting and safe adventure of discovery as they [reach for the stars](#).

Wishing you a happy new year,

*Kelli Hilburn*

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



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



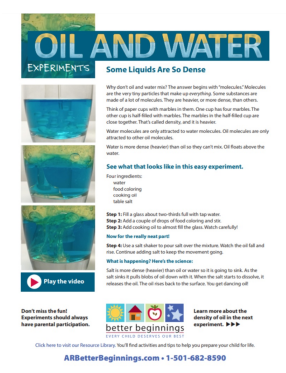


Make rainy days fun and educational with this easy activity. Gather all the materials together and experiment up a storm at your house. Watch the video below to learn more.



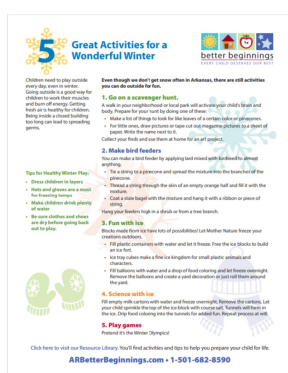
PLAY,  
LEARN,  
EXPLORE

## LEARNING RESOURCES



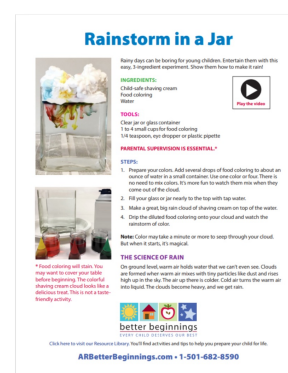
### Oil & Water Experiments

Why don't oil and water mix? Molecules! There's no better way for your child to learn this than to see it themselves. Find the details on how to do this in this resource.

[View Resource](#)


### Activities for a Wonderful Winter

Play doesn't stop for anything, especially weather. Find fun winter-based activities in this resource that will have your child exploring all the winter world has to offer.

[View Resource](#)


### Rainstorm in a Jar

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

[View Resource](#)





LEARNING  
IS FUN!

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



## Kindergarten Readiness Section

As your child’s first teacher, you directly impact their educational future. Get them started on the right foot with the resources in our new Kindergarten Readiness section. We recommend the [Getting Ready for Kindergarten Calendar](#), which provides fun activities that can be done at home and on-the-go.

Learn More



## AOECP Nominations Open

It’s time to nominate the next Arkansas Outstanding Early Childhood Professional! This award honors a hard-working early childhood professional who makes a positive impact in the lives of the children they serve. Do you know a child care provider who fits that description? Nominate them today!

Make a Nomination



# HEALTH AND SAFETY



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.
  - 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. Include additional layers with your child for outdoor playtime while at child care.
2. Utilize winter accessories.
  - Boots, gloves, and a hat go a long way in keeping children warm alongside thin

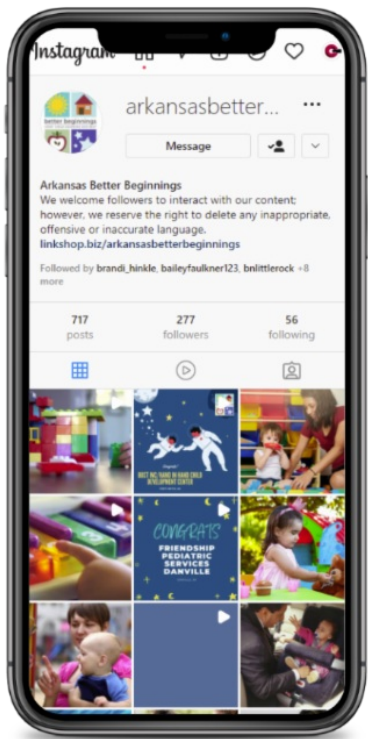
layers and a coat. Include these items with your child when you drop them off at child care.

3. Take off bulky coats when putting a child in their car seat.
- Thick coats leave extra space under a harness, leaving children less secure in their car seat. Thin, snug layers ensure they're warm and safe.

# 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.



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