



Literacy



Math



Science

Provider Buzz | July 2022



better beginnings

EVERY CHILD DESERVES OUR BEST



**A NOTE FROM
KELLI HILBURN**

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Let me be the first to welcome you to a new school year – and a fresh new design for *The Buzz*! If you are like me, the new school year is always a little exciting with so much transition and change happening around us. When I was going to school, I remember my teachers starting the new school year by telling us all about the things we would accomplish during the year. The enthusiasm and encouragement of my teachers always made me feel like I could reach for the stars. In that same spirit, we're introducing this

year a new theme to help motivate and encourage you to – “**Reach for the Stars!**”

So, why “Reach for the Stars?” Better Beginnings always focuses on increasing quality and ensuring that children in Arkansas have access to quality care. Our star levels are indicators of quality for those searching for child care. So, we want to encourage you to partner with us this year as you continue your quality journey. Whether you’re going for a new star level or working to maintain your level, we’re here to help.

One of the ways we help our providers is through this newsletter, offering reminders of **services and resources** that are available to you. Keep in mind that throughout the year, Better Beginnings offers age-appropriate **curriculum** for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. This curriculum is free for you to use in your classroom. This year, you’ll also continue to receive resources featured in this newsletter focusing on different educational themes. This month, we’re focusing on **literacy**.

Now, while the new school year is exciting, it can also be a challenge at times when we are welcoming our kiddos back to class. Just know, the BehaviorHelp team is there and available to assist you with any challenging behaviors you experience in the classroom. Keep reading this month’s edition of *The Buzz* to see how you can contact them in the event that you find their services necessary.

One last reminder before we kick this year off. Summer break may be over, but the heat and sun are far from taking a vacation. We’ve included some additional summer safety tips below to keep in mind when outside with children these next couple months. Good luck this year and remember to find time to take care of yourself.



Kelli Hilburn

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





Unprotected skin is vulnerable to sun damage. The following are **three things to know** about how the sun can damage children's skin and what to do about it:

- Turning Pink – In as little as 15 minutes, the sun's UV rays can damage unprotected skin. However, it can take up to 12 hours before that damage is seen. If you see your child's skin turning pink, get them out of the sun.
- Tanning – Any change in color on your child's skin is indicative of sun damage. That includes tanned skin. Therefore, if you see your child's skin tanning, get them out of the sun.
- Cloudy Days – Clouds don't prevent the sun's UV rays from hitting our skin. Clouds only slightly filter the rays. Therefore, it's just as important that children wear sunscreen and use other protective measures when outside no matter what the sky looks like.

LEARNING RESOURCES

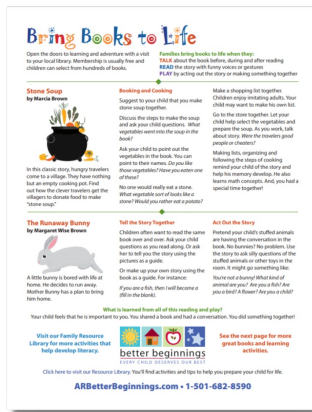
PLAY, LEARN, EXPLORE



What Do You See?

This classic children's book is ideal for having fun while teaching your child about colors and animals. The rhythmic text inspires a playful experience and the activities are great for children three and older. Have fun!

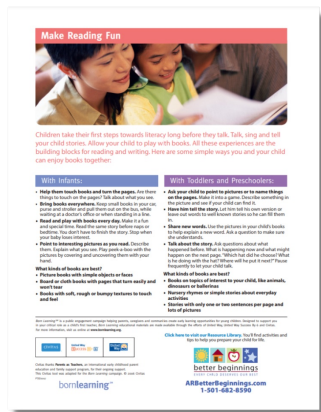
[View Resource](#)



Bring Books to Life

Families bring books to life when they TALK about the book before, during, and after reading. READ the story with funny voices or gestures, and PLAY by acting out the story or making something together.

[View Resource](#)



Make Reading Fun

Children take their first steps towards literacy before they talk. Talk, sing, and tell your child stories. Allow your child to play with books. All these experiences build blocks for future reading and writing.

[View Resource](#)

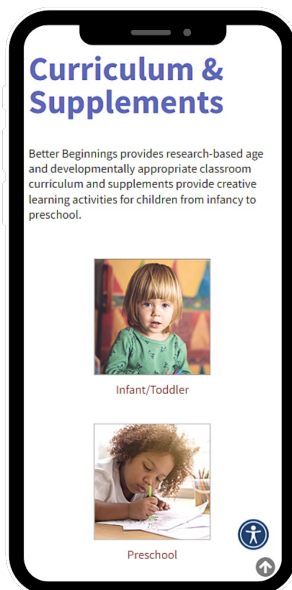


LEARNING IS FUN!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Developmentally Appropriate, Research-Based Curriculum



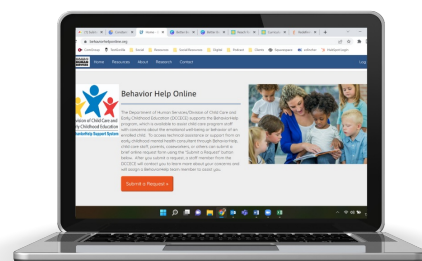
Our research-based age and developmentally appropriate classroom curriculum and supplements are free for use in your classroom. These resources provide learning activities for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers that will further their knowledge and development.

Download these materials from the Better Beginnings website.

[View Resources](#)

Behavior Help is Here to Help

A new year brings new students that may bring new challenging behaviors into your classroom. The Behavior Help team is here to help you navigate those difficult situations. Get these challenging behaviors out of the way early so that you don't spend the whole year struggling.



[Contact Behavior Help Team](#)

Upcoming Conferences

Better Beginnings staff will be Celebrating the Past and Shaping the Future at the **Arkansas State University Early Childhood Education Conference** August 8-9, 2022, in Jonesboro. We'll be available to answer any of your questions and to hear from you!

We're also attending the **Arkansas Early Childhood Association Conference** October 12-15, 2022, in Little Rock. We hope to see more of your Be-YOU-tiful faces and to be gathered with you once again for the first time in two years.



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.

THREE STAR PROVIDERS

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

- Burks Daycare & Learning Academy, Brinkley
- Becky's Child Care, Mabelvale
- Diane's Home Daycare, Brinkley
- The Audubon School, Pine Bluff
- Friendship Pediatric Marshall, Marshall
- Pumpkin Patch Pre-K, Siloam Springs
- Friendship Pediatric Lowell, Lowell

TWO STAR PROVIDERS

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

- My First Step, Little Rock
- Children's First Daycare, Forrest City
- Kids R Us, Conway

- Stephanie Grandys Day Care, Bearden
- Lisa's Lollipop Land, DeQueen
- Grandmamma LaDebra In-Home, West Memphis
- Nana's House, Benton
- Kids Corner, Newark
- B.B's Daycare, Forrest City
- Elaine's Second Step Family Home, North Little Rock
- Little Blessings Daycare, El Dorado
- Shonda's Sunshine Care, DeQueen
- Small Fry Family Child Care, Fayetteville
- Tee Tee's Child Care, Hot Springs
- Terry Lynn's Family Home Day Care, Hot Springs
- Lil Bit's Family Home Day Care, Hot Springs
- Lee's Day Care, Madison
- Rug-Ratz Preschool, LLC, Benton
- Word Of Outreach Christian Academy & Daycare, Little Rock
- Southwest Christian Academy, Little Rock
- LASONIA'S ACTIVITY LAND, Hot Springs
- Quality Child Care, Cabot
- Kingdom Kidds Childcare Center, Sherwood
- 123's & ABC's Child Care & Learning Center, Hot Springs
- Central Baptist Wee Care, Magnolia
- Laugh N Learn #2, Pine Bluff
- Kids R' Kids Learning Center, Little Rock
- Preschool Extraordinaire, Greenwood
- Bingham Road Baptist Child Development Center, Little Rock
- Little Angels Playland Daycare, Texarkana
- Little Lambs, Malvern
- Laugh-N-Learn Childcare Center, Pine Bluff
- Carmell's Learning Center LLC, North Little Rock
- Life Skills for Youth Inc, Little Rock
- Cabot Gymnastics Academy After School, Cabot
- Tots Landing Child Development Center, Texarkana
- Kids World at Darr, Rogers
- Kids World at Jones, Rogers
- Carolyn's Learning Center, Osceola
- Little Sheep Day School, Wynne
- Butterflies & Frogs, Fayetteville
- All About Me Learning Center, Harrison
- Focus Inc. Blytheville, Blytheville
- Compass Learning Center, Batesville
- Little Lambs Learning Center, Morrilton
- Batesville Montessori School, Batesville
- Little Angels Child Development Center, Berryville
- Millwood Academy and After School Care, Rogers
- The Learning Center of North Arkansas, Inc. Harrison
- Methodist Day School, Wynne
- Oasis 4 Kids Learning Center Phase 2, Jonesboro
- Mobius Learning Academy, Bentonville
- Global Academy, West Memphis
- The Goddard School Fayetteville West, Fayetteville
- Doodle Bugs Daycare and Preschool, Springdale
- Parkside Playschool, Fayetteville
- The Goddard School Fayetteville, Fayetteville

- Kids Care and Development Center, West Memphis
- Kidz R Us, Brookland
- Jungle Gym Adventures and Learning Center, Pocahontas

ONE STAR PROVIDERS

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

- Building Arkansas' Youth (Bay) Childcare, Bay



VIDEO CORNER

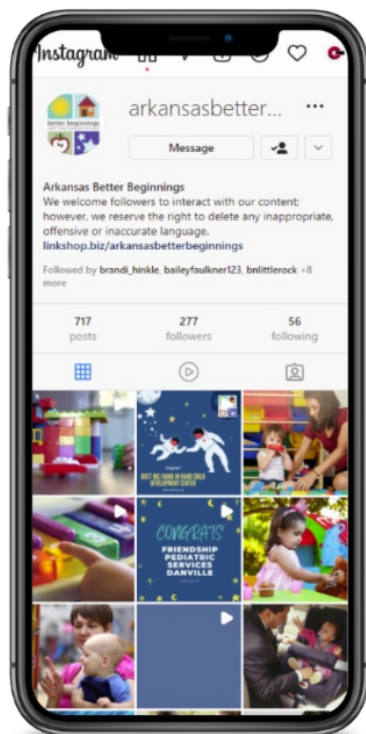
WATCH NOW



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'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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