



Literacy



Math



Science



A NOTE FROM KELLI HILBURN

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

It's another hot Arkansas summer, but that won't stop us from **reaching for the stars** yet again this year. You have already achieved great things, and I know you'll keep the momentum going. Remember, Better Beginnings is your partner in ensuring all Arkansas children have access to high-quality child care. We're here to help you achieve your goals.

As your partner, we want to help you make summer fun with activities for the kids and resources for exploring and learning. Included in this newsletter is information about the free age-appropriate **curriculum** available on our website and information about BehaviorHelp. The **science** resources listed later in this newsletter are great for outdoor play. You'll also read about becoming a community-based provider for **military** families.

Soon you'll be able to ask us questions in person because it's time for us to get back on the road! Better Beginnings will be at the A-State Early Childhood Education **Conference** from August 1-3 in Jonesboro. We'd love to see you! More details, as well as other events, are listed later in the newsletter.

I want to extend my personal congratulations to the directors who received their ACPAC certificate or credential. I had the pleasure of attending the graduation in May and was so excited to see your dedication for the children of Arkansas on display. You can see the full list of your colleagues and find more information about the program as you keep reading.

My team and I are grateful to be your partners and help you provide the best care for the children in this state. You can be each other's partner, too. Share this newsletter with your colleagues and encourage them to sign up to help them on their journey to reach 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

Cool down your classroom with our Nice Ice activity! Click the video below to watch the demonstration and get more information about this resource.



**PLAY,
LEARN,
EXPLORE**

LEARNING RESOURCES



Get Muddy With Your Buddy

Spark a child's creativity and imagination using mud. Children can paint with it, sculpt with it, and stomp around in it. No



Inspire Discovery

Set children on the road to discovery with these 10 activities. Encourage them to experiment, observe, then experiment



The Sunflower Jar

Are you hearing children ask how plants grow? This activity is perfect for them to see nature in action.

matter, what they'll have fun and learn through play.

some more!

[View Resource](#)

[View Resource](#)

[View Resource](#)



LEARNING IS FUN!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



1. Water - Children can have so much fun playing they forget to drink enough water. When you bring them in from playing outside, have water ready for them to drink.

2. Shade - Encourage children to play in the shade of trees, or create your own shade using sheets or other materials. This will give them added protection from the sun and a cooler place to play.

3. Sunscreen - The best way to ensure children are protected from the sun is to cover their exposed skin with sunscreen. This will keep them safe now and reduce the risk of certain diseases as they grow.

4. Hats - Hats are an efficient way to protect faces and necks from the sun. Encourage your client-families to include a hat in their child's backpack each day.

[Learn More](#)



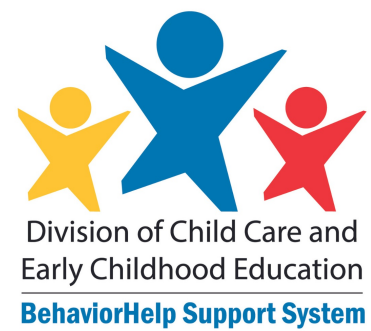
Curriculum

Our research-based, developmentally appropriate curriculum and supplements are perfect for any classroom. Provide infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with creative learning activities using these resources as your guide.

[View Curriculum](#)

Don't let challenging behaviors overwhelm you.
Reach out to the BehaviorHelp team for assistance.

[Learn More](#)



MILITARY
CHILDCARE dot **COM**

[Become a Community-Based Provider for Military Families](#)

Providers in the local community play a valuable role in serving military families. By becoming a participating provider in the DoD's [Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood](#) (MCCYN) fee assistance program, your business provides a valuable service to our military community. Watch the video by clicking below to learn more.

[Learn More](#)



Eighteen child care administrators in Arkansas received their Arkansas Children's Program Administrator Certificate or Credential in May. They earned this certificate after completing many hours of professional development, which concentrated on building a defined vision, understanding child development, supporting program-wide learning, and generating positive relations with the local communities. For more information about the ACPAC program, contact [Sue Remfrey](#).

Certificate

- Tedra Griffin
- Whitney Comer
- Bartley Herring
- Alicia Trujillo
- Bobbi Sue Adams
- Ashley Willbanks
- Heather Holcomb
- Kimberly Potter-Burkheart
- Amber Riddle
- Cynthia Greenlee
- Elizabeth Massey
- Jemima Reilmann
- Lora Medina
- Regaysha Shelton
- Shelby Godfrey
- Summer Harlow

Credential

- Melissa Baddar
- Adrienne Crow



A-State Early Childhood Education Conference

Join Better Beginnings at the 2023 [A-State Childhood Services](#) Early Childhood Education Conference from August 1-3, 2023 in Jonesboro. Hear from experts about what Learning in Motion looks like for young children.

Register

4th Annual Early Childhood STEAM Conference (September)

Join our friends from Child Care Aware of West Central Arkansas and Don Monopoli from The Learning Station at the 4th Annual Early Childhood STEAM Conference Saturday, September 30. Learn how to cultivate STEAM learning principles in young children.

Learn More

AECA Conference (October)

Join Better Beginnings at the annual Arkansas Early Childhood Association conference in Little Rock from October 11-14, 2023. We can't wait to hear how you are implementing play-based learning and what more you'll do as we Learn to Play and Play to Learn together.

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.



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

- Arkadelphia Head Start, Arkadelphia
- Cotter Head Start, Cotter
- East End Elementary Pre-K, Little Rock
- Gurdon Head Start, Gurdon
- Guy-Perkins School, Guy
- Hamburg Pre-K and Childcare, Hamburg
- Mtn Home Head Start, Mountain Home
- Norfolk Head Start Center, Norfolk
- Parson Hills Elementary Pre-K, Springdale
- Portland Preschool, Portland
- Pre-K PCSSD Clinton Elementary, Sherwood
- Sequoyah - RSD Preschool, Russellville



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

- Tennie Russell Primary School, Bentonville
- Junction City ABC Center, Junction City
- Strong ABC Center, Strong
- County Line Pre-K, Branch
- Hampton Early Head Start Center, El Dorado
- Des Arc Preschool, Des Arc
- Sonora Elementary Pre-K, Springdale
- ABC Children's Academy at Dardanelle Site 2, Dardanelle
- Center Valley - RSD Preschool, Russellville



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

- Acorn Preschool, Mena
- Crawford - RSD Preschool, Russellville
- Dardanelle ARVAC Head Start, Dardanelle
- East Poinsett County Pre-School, Lepanto
- Elmdale Elementary Pre-K, Springdale
- Joiner Head Start Community Center, Joiner
- Magnolia Child Development Center, Magnolia
- MCAEOC Head Start V, Jonesboro
- Morning Start Head Start Center, El Dorado
- Pre-K Harris Elementary, North Little Rock
- Pre-K Robinson Elementary, Little Rock
- Rocket Zone Preschool, Scranton
- Bright Start Early Learning Center, Fort Smith
- TG Smith Elementary Pre-K, Springdale
- Walker Elementary Pre-K, Springdale
- West Woods Head Start Center, El Dorado
- George Washington Elementary Pre-K, Springdale
- Grace Lutheran Early Childhood Center, Little Rock
- CAPCA Dumas Migrant and Seasonal Head Start, Dumas
- Westside Warriors Preschool Center, Jonesboro



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

- Quality Child Care, Fort Smith
- Paris ARVAC Head Start, Paris
- Melissa's Day Care Family Home, Strawberry
- ANH Montessori School, Rogers
- Quality Child Care, Conway
- Tiny Feet Preschool, Fayetteville
- Look What I Can Do Learning Center, Brookland
- Great Futures, Hot Springs Village
- God's Little Blessings Christians Home Daycare, Batesville
- Western Hills Care Program, Little Rock
- Easter Seals Academy at Riverdale, Little Rock



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

- Janna's Little Angels #2, Little Rock
- Tousin's Global Academy, West Memphis
- Kids Unlimited Learning Academy, Fort Smith
- Cat Club Brookland Middle School, Brookland
- Kids Unlimited Learning Academy, Farmington



The following program is now **1-star** Better Beginnings provider:

- St. Michaels Jr Kindergarten, West Memphis

Level Up Resource

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

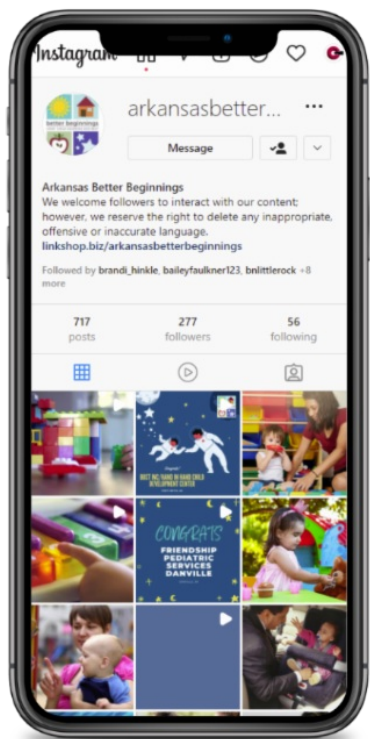
Visit our Website

WHAT IS BETTER BEGINNINGS?



Better Beginnings means better opportunities. Investing in quality 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.



Better Beginnings | DCCECE, 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 powered by



Try email marketing for free today!