



Literacy



Math



Science

Family Buzz | July 2025



better beginnings
EVERY CHILD DESERVES OUR BEST



**A NOTE FROM
KELLI HILBURN**

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Going on adventures together is a great way to bond as a family and encourage exploration. There's no better time for adventuring than summer, and you don't have to go far to do it. Going to a new community park or having a backyard scavenger hunt are just two ways that bring fun into your child's life while helping them see more of the world around them.

Seeing and understanding nature at an early age can help your child come to care for it later in

life. Keep reading for fun [science](#) resources in this month's edition of the *Buzz* with activities to cultivate that knowledge at home. As you keep reading, you'll also see:

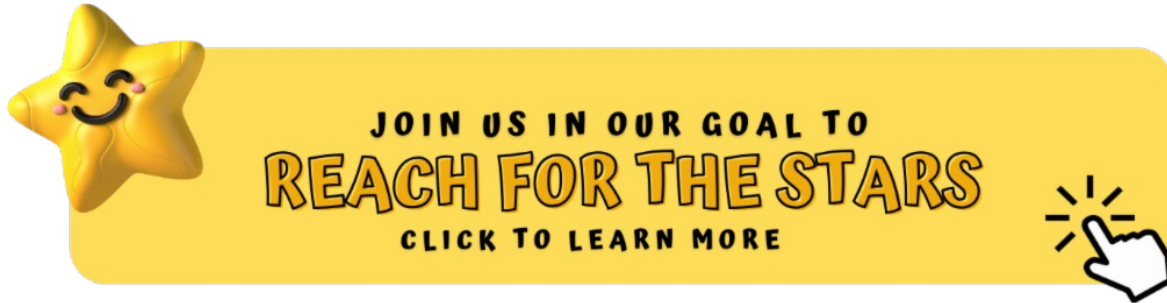
- This month's [kindergarten readiness tip](#)
- A [checklist](#) for identifying high-quality early care and education
- Water safety [tips](#)

Summer brings opportunities for fun and learning through play. Help your child [reach for the stars](#) and make this their best summer yet.

Until next time,

Kelli Hilburn

Kelli Hilburn
BETTER BEGINNINGS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



WATCH NOW 

Exploring together creates strong family bonds and fun memories that last a lifetime. Watch this video to learn more.



LEARNING RESOURCES

PLAY, LEARN, EXPLORE

A large yellow banner with a white border. On the left, there is a circular inset image of a young child with curly hair, wearing a blue and white striped shirt and denim overalls, sitting at a table and reading a book. Below this image is a small orange circle with the text "PLAY, LEARN, EXPLORE" in white. To the right of the circular image, the words "LEARNING RESOURCES" are written in large, bold, white capital letters. At the bottom of the banner, there are two more circular inset images. The first shows two children sitting at a table, one of whom is wearing red glasses and has green paint on their hand. The second shows two children sitting on the floor, one of whom is wearing a blue shirt and the other a pink shirt.



Sunflower in a Jar

Teach your child how things grow with this resource! All it takes is a sunflower seed, wet paper towels, and a clear glass jar. Check it out today.

[View Resource](#)



Inspire Discovery

Free exploration helps children make discoveries, which helps them learn. Check out this resource to find all the ways you can help your child make their own scientific discoveries. Note: Active adult supervision is required.

[View Resource](#)



Woodland Mini Garden

Exploring and collecting nature's little treasures encourages children's curiosity and helps them learn to appreciate the world around them. Learn how you can facilitate this learning for your child using this resource. Note: Active adult supervision is required.

[View Resource](#)



LEARNING
IS FUN!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Kindergarten Readiness Tip of the Month

If your child has graduated from pre-K, they're going to start kindergarten in a month. Help them get ready by making plans! Practice what a day at kindergarten looks like so they know what to expect. Find all the ways you can do that through the [Getting Ready for Kindergarten Calendar](#).

[Learn More](#)



Choosing Child Care Checklist

Finding high-quality early care and education can be stressful. This interactive, smartphone-friendly checklist can help. Take it with you while touring a facility so you can document what high-quality aspects you observe.

[Learn More](#)





HEALTH AND SAFETY



Health and Safety Tips

Swimming and playing with water are great ways to stay cool during summer. However, that fun doesn't come without risk. Here are four ways you can help keep your child safe this season.

1. **Watch your child** whenever they're around water, without distractions. Young children can drown in small amounts of water.
2. **Empty any containers** that were previously filled with water immediately after use. This includes tubs, buckets, and kids' pools. Store these things upside down and out of reach.
3. **Create layers of protection** around open water. This may be in the form of a fence around pools, ponds, or outdoor fountains. Don't let your child visit the bathroom unsupervised.
4. **Use life jackets** anytime your child is near natural bodies of water like lakes and rivers. They should be properly fitted and approved by the U.S. Coast Guard.

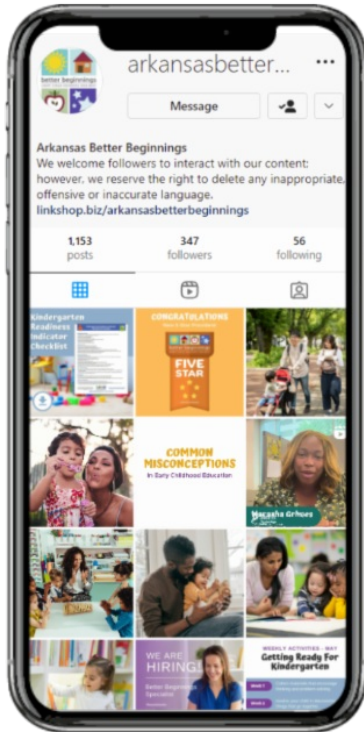
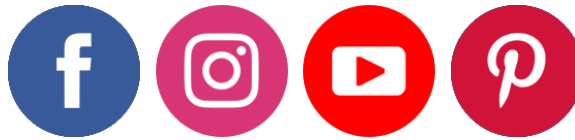
A safe summer is a fun one. Learn more from the [American Academy of Pediatrics.](#)



WHAT IS BETTER BEGINNINGS?

Better Beginnings means better opportunities. Investing in quality care and education for all Arkansas children creates better opportunities for our children, families, workforce, and communities.

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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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