



Literacy



Math



Science

Provider Buzz | July 2025



better beginnings
EVERY CHILD DESERVES OUR BEST



**A NOTE FROM
KELLI HILBURN**

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Every moment is a learning opportunity for young children, and summer brings fun and exciting things to discover. With play as your guide, you can teach the children in your care about nature's treasures and help them build a solid foundation for future learning.

Learning never stops, though. You can model what lifelong learning looks like this fall during conference season. Full details on where to find the Better Beginnings team are included in this

month's edition of the *Buzz*. As you keep reading, you'll also see:

- [Science](#) resources that bring nature to life.
- A [website](#) for more resources to increase your quality.
- Details for today's [provider call](#)
- The latest round of star approvals.

Thank you for making this summer enriching and meaningful for the children in your classroom.

Until next time,

Kelli Hilburn

Kelli Hilburn

BETTER BEGINNINGS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



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



**VIDEO
CORNER**

WATCH NOW

Are the children in your classroom asking about how things grow? Give them a visual demonstration using the [Sunflower in a Jar](#) resource! Watch this video to learn more.



LEARNING RESOURCES

PLAY,
LEARN,
EXPLORE





Sensory Play

Touching and tasting are two ways babies and toddlers investigate and learn about the world around them. Encourage their curiosity safely with these sensory-focused activities and watch them play!

[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 children make scientific discoveries. Note: Active adult supervision is required.

[View Resource](#)



Woodland Mini Garden

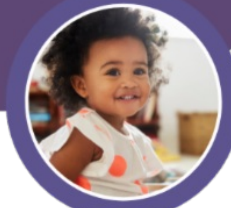
Exploring and collecting nature's little treasures encourages children's curiosity and helps them learn to appreciate the world around them. Learn how you can instill that appreciation in your classroom using this resource. Note: Active adult supervision is required.

[View Resource](#)



LEARNING
IS FUN!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



AR Resource Connections

Looking for more resources to increase your quality? Check out the AR Resource Connections website! There are thousands of resources available for early childhood educators at every level.

[Learn More](#)



Monthly Provider Call *TODAY Zoom @ Noon*

Zoom with representatives from the Office of Early Childhood to hear the latest news and updates on early childhood education in Arkansas. If you're unable to attend, don't worry. All calls are recorded and available to watch on the OEC website.

[Learn More](#)

A-State Early Childhood Conference *August 5-7, 2025 Jonesboro*

We hope to see you at the A-State Early Childhood Conference in August! We can't wait to discuss how we can better serve Arkansas children and families through powerful partnerships. Register today with the link below.

Arkansas Early Childhood Association Conference

October 8-9, 2025, North Little Rock

Join us at the annual Arkansas Early Childhood Association Conference in October! We're excited to gather with you and celebrate your great work. We've got some big plans for this conference, so stay tuned for more information and get registered today!

[Register Here](#)

Congratulations on reaching your next star level! Share your achievement with your community and client-families using our [Star Kit](#).



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

- Crawford - RSD Preschool, Russellville
- Howard Elementary Preschool, Fort Smith
- John Tyson Elementary Pre-K, Springdale
- Mansfield ABC Inc, Mansfield

- Rockefeller Early Childhood Education Program, Little Rock



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

- Ballman Elementary Preschool, Fort Smith
- Cavanaugh Elementary Preschool, Fort Smith
- Magnolia Early Head Start Center, Magnolia
- Mammoth Spring Preschool, Mammoth Spring
- Park Elementary Preschool, Fort Smith
- Sunnymede Elementary Preschool, Fort Smith



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

- AEL Arkadelphia, Arkadelphia
- Christ Little Rock Early Childhood, Little Rock
- Kickin' Kids, Benton



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

- Deliverance Early Learning Center, Jonesboro
- Just Like Home Daycare Center, Jonesboro
- Kiddie Town Learning Center, Little Rock
- Little Blessings Preschool & Childcare Inc, Van Buren
- Me Me's Learning Academy, Pine Bluff

TWO-STAR PROVIDERS

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

- Dover Little Pirate Preschool, Dover
- The Goddard School Fort Smith, Fort Smith

ONE-STAR PROVIDERS

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

- Jacob's Ladder, Stuttgart

Level Up Resource

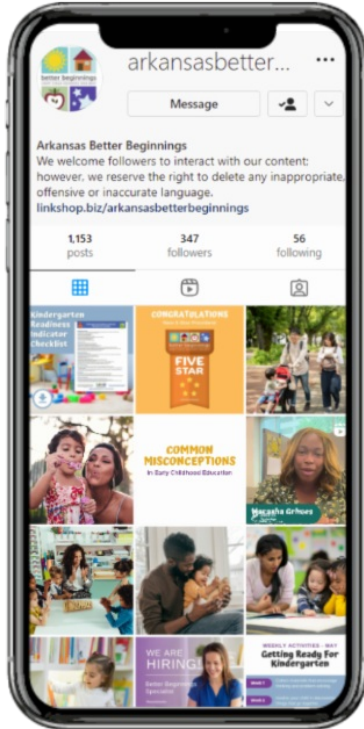
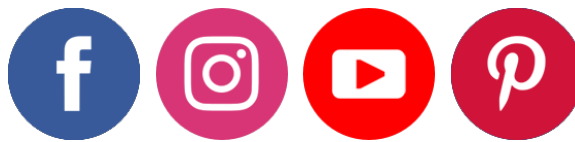
Looking to increase your star level? Check out our [Provider Tools](#) to get started!

Visit our Website

WHAT IS BETTER BEGINNINGS?

Better Beginnings means better opportunities. Investing in quality early care and education 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 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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