



Literacy



Math



Science

Family Buzz | June 2023



## A NOTE FROM KELLI HILBURN

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

It's been almost a year since we launched our [Reach for the Stars](#) initiative, and I'm excited to bring you a report on the success of our first year.

We encouraged child care providers to bring you and your children higher-quality care, and they succeeded. We had 448 providers increase their [star levels](#) since July 2022. That is an extraordinary number, and these providers completed this hard work for your child. Find one of these providers in your area using our [Child Care Finder](#) tool on the Better Beginnings [website](#).

Summer is also right around the corner! Keep reading for summer safety [tips](#) that will keep your child safe as they enjoy playing outdoors at the beach or in the backyard. For indoor play, look no further than the [literacy](#) resources. If you need books, sign up for [Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#) using the link found later in the newsletter. Children, ages birth to 5 years old, are eligible to receive a free, age-appropriate book in the mail each month.

Lastly, I want to wish all the dads out there a Happy Father's Day! I hope you enjoy your day and the time you have with your children.

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**

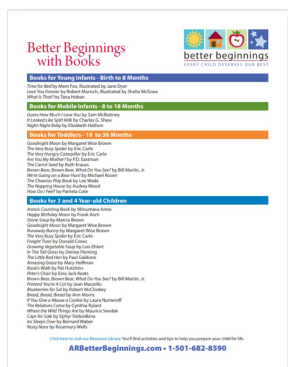
**WATCH NOW**

Books like *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* offer children opportunities to learn about colors, animals, and new words while being read to. Watch the video below, then learn about the importance of reading to children for at least **10 minutes** each day from the Arkansas Department of Human Services.



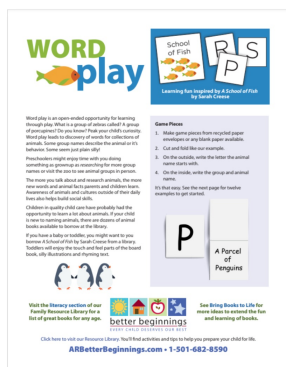
**PLAY,  
LEARN,  
EXPLORE**

# LEARNING RESOURCES



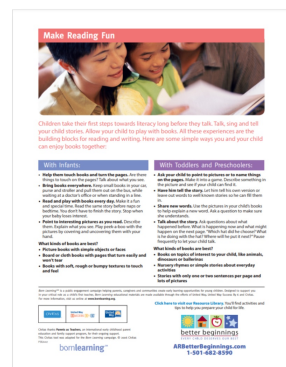
## Better Beginnings With Books

Take a look at this list of age-appropriate books. You can check them out



## Word Play

Take a look at this list of age-appropriate books. You can check them out from your local public library or buy them for at-



## Make Reading Fun

Children relate to books differently as they grow. This resource provides you with ways to ensure each book experience is

from your local public library or buy them for at-home reading. Reading to children for **10 minutes** each day will help them love reading and stick with it as they grow.

[View Resource](#)

home reading. Reading to children for **10 minutes** each day will help them love reading and stick with it as they grow.

[View Resource](#)

a building block to reading and writing.

[View Resource](#)



LEARNING  
IS FUN!

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



### Summer Safety Tips



#### 1. Stay Hydrated

When playing, children can often forget to drink water. Keep water readily available and encourage regular water breaks so your child doesn't dehydrate.

#### 2. Utilize Shady Spots

Encourage your child to find natural shade when playing outside, or create it yourself. Shade protects them from the sun and offers a cooler place to play.

#### 3. Wear Sunscreen

Prevent sun damage to your child's skin by putting sunscreen on them. Applying this now will reduce the risk of severe damage in the future.

#### 4. Wear Hats

Hats are a cute but effective way to protect faces and necks from the sun.

Learn more about the importance of sun safety on the CDC website.

[Learn More](#)

### Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Children, birth to 5 years old,  
in all of Arkansas's 75





counties are eligible to receive an age-appropriate book by mail each month, for free, from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Sign up the child in your life today!

Sign Up



**The Impact of Nutrition and Physical Activity on Brain Development and Behavior in Children**  
*Tuesday, June 20, 2023, 6-7 p.m.*

Join staff from Child Care Aware of Northwest Arkansas over Zoom as they discuss the importance of nutrition and play on children's development.

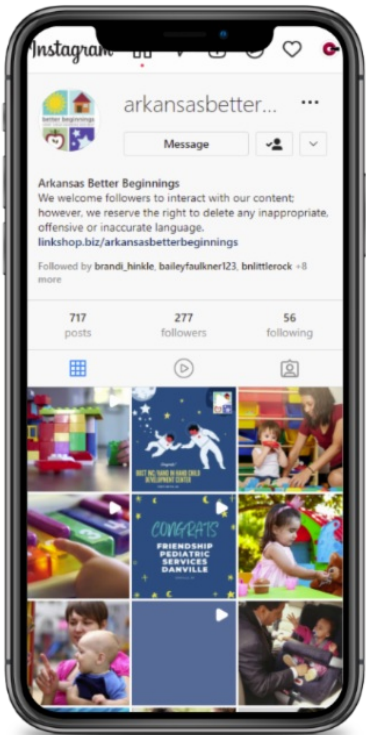
Register Now



# 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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