



Literacy



Math



Science



A NOTE FROM KELLI HILBURN

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Since introducing our [Reach for the Stars](#) initiative, we've seen you all excel and meet new goals. It's thrilling to watch this success happen because I know it brings higher quality care to the children in our state, giving each a foundation from which they can thrive. We're proud to be your partner in this mission.

I'm especially proud that when we brought you three additional [star levels](#) to reach for, many of you immediately went for it. Since the new levels were announced, we now have 42 6-star providers, 36 5-star providers, and 90 4-star providers. I can't wait to see how many more we'll have this time next year! It's an exciting time for early childhood education in Arkansas, and I know you will continue to keep the momentum moving forward as we work for the children entrusted to our care.

In the meantime, take a look at the [literacy](#) resources below and learn why reading to children for [10 minutes](#) every day matters. Get ready for the upcoming official school year with the [curriculum](#) available on the Better Beginnings [website](#). Find more information on that and some summer safety [tips](#) as you keep reading.

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

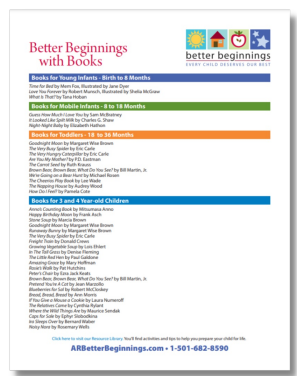


Books like *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* offer children opportunities to learn about colors, animals, and new words while being read to. Watch the video below, then learn about the importance of reading to children for at least **10 minutes** each day from the Arkansas Department of Human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



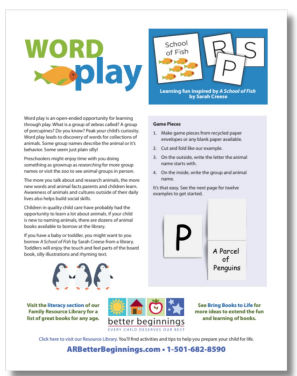

LEARNING RESOURCES

PLAY, LEARN, EXPLORE



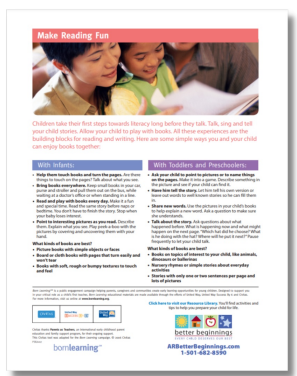
Better Beginnings With Books

Share this list of age-appropriate books with your client-families and stock your classroom libraries! Reading to children for **10 minutes** each day will help them fall in love with reading and stick with it as they grow.



Word Play

Looking for an open-ended opportunity for children to learn new words through play? This is the resource for you. Children will also learn about animals and other cultures outside of their daily lives to help build their social skills.



Make Reading Fun

Children relate to books differently as they grow. This resource provides you with ways to ensure each book experience is a building block to reading and writing.

[View Resource](#)

[View Resource](#)

[View Resource](#)



LEARNING
IS FUN!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



ENJOY THESE SUMMER SAFETY TIPS & TRICKS

- 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 about the importance of sun safety from the CDC with the button below.

[Learn More](#)



Free Curriculum & Supplements

The free curriculum and supplements on our website are great for starting lesson plans. The age-appropriate, play-based activities will teach children key concepts that make them successful in kindergarten and beyond.

[Check it out!](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Informational Provider Call

Zoom with the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education on **Tuesday, June 6**, and receive the latest early childhood education industry updates.

[Learn More](#)

Administrator Conference

Join your fellow administrators **June 7-9, 2023** at the A-State Childhood Services Administrator Conference. Spend noon to 2 p.m. each day learning more about being an administrator.

Registration information coming soon. Stay tuned to the A-State Childhood Services [website](#) and [social media](#) for more.



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.



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

- Pre-K PCSSD Sylvan Hills Elementary, Sherwood
- Shalynn Daray Lane, Ash Flat



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

- Adventure Club at Willowbrook and Bright Field, Bentonville
- Berryville Preschool, Berryville
- Gurdon Primary School, Gurdon
- Horatio Preschool, Horatio
- Oakland RSD, Russellville
- Tucker Pre-K Center, Lowell

FOUR STAR PROVIDERS

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

- Arkansas Aeroplex Head Start, Gosnell
- Coal Hill ARVAC Head Start, Coal Hill
- Fordyce Head Start, Fordyce
- Jim D Rollins Elementary Pre-K, Springdale
- Junction City Head Start Center, Junction City
- Leachville Head Start Center, Leachville
- Luxora Head Start Center, Luxora
- NAPC/Flippin Preschool, Flippin
- Ozark School District ABC Program, Ozark
- Riverview Judsonia Preschool, Judsonia
- Turnbow Pre-K, Springdale

THREE STAR PROVIDERS

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

- Little Martians Learning Center, Bentonville
- Little Martians Learning Center, Springdale

TWO STAR PROVIDERS

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

- Legacy Learning LLC, Conway
- FUMC Children's Enrichment Center, North Little Rock
- CAT Club Brookland School, Brookland

ONE STAR PROVIDERS

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

- Pugs and Kisses, Fayetteville
- Donald W. Reynolds School Kids Connection, Fayetteville
- Laugh and Learn Academy, Summit

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.



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