



Literacy



Math



Science



better beginnings
EVERY CHILD DESERVES OUR BEST



A NOTE FROM KELLI HILBURN

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

The humid, hot weather is upon us. The sun will be out more, which means your child will be outside a lot. Outdoor play is essential for physical activity and healthy development. Being outside gives you great moments for teaching. Add a learning activity to time spent outside. Make a game of counting the houses you walk past or sticks gathered. These moments can help your child grasp core math concepts while having fun.

There are days when it's too hot to be outside for long periods. Keep reading for fun indoor learning activities that can help your child learn math concepts such as organizing, measuring, colors, and more. You'll also find as you read:

- **Tips** for talking about safety with your child.
- An **activity** to help your child get ready for kindergarten.
- An online parenting **class**.
- **Tips** for sun safety.

These resources and activities will have your child **reaching for the stars** throughout the summer whether at home or on vacation. You'll create fun memories along the way, too, that will be incredibly special for both you and your child.

Until next time,

Kelli Hilburn
BETTER BEGINNINGS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



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



CONGRATULATIONS

The 2024 Arkansas Outstanding Early Childhood Professionals are **Dr. Physhuna Jones** and **April Middleton**! Congratulations on being recognized by your colleagues for your passion and dedication to the children and families of Arkansas.

Dr. Jones is the director of **Homer Adkins Pre-K Center** (4-Star) in Jacksonville. She has over 23 years of experience in education and is a strong advocate and cheerleader for the young children in her care.



April is the owner and a teacher at ABC Academy (6-Star) of Valley Springs in Harrison. Her facility is accredited by the National Association for Family Child Care. April has 20 years of experience in education and serves as a model to other early care and education providers for creating high-quality learning environments.

VIDEO CORNER

[WATCH NOW](#)

Baking cookies together is a great way for your child to learn foundational math concepts and create special memories with you. Watch the video below for more.



LEARNING RESOURCES



PLAY,
LEARN,
EXPLORE



Let's Make Music

Music is math and this resource shows you how. Have fun measuring and build instruments from the things you can find at home. Then, watch your child groove to their own beat.

[View Resource](#)



3 Paths To Math

Hands-on learning experiences are a great way to help your child grasp key math concepts. Book some time with your child to help them bake and build their way into math skills.

[View Resource](#)



Sorting Sacks & Similar Stuff

Being able to organize things by their similarities is an important foundation for developing future math skills. Check out this resource for sorting activities that can help your child learn their colors, shapes, sizes, and more.

[View Resource](#)



LEARNING IS FUN!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Kindergarten Readiness

Help your child learn personal information about themselves and your family to get them ready for kindergarten. Write or draw a book together that's all about them and your family.

[Learn More](#)



[Rules for Safety](#)

Summer is a great time to think about how to communicate safety and rules with your child. Our resource Family Rules for Safety can help guide you in that conversation as your child becomes more independent.

[View Rules](#)



[Healthy Media for Very Young Children](#)

Wednesday, June 19 at 12:30 p.m.

Want to learn how to use screen time to assist in your child's development? Our friends at Curricula Concepts can help. Join them over Zoom on for tips on identifying high-quality media experiences and guidelines for proper media use.

[Register](#)



HEALTH AND SAFETY



[Outdoor Play](#)

Outdoor play is essential all year. It's important to take extra precautions in the summer to protect your child's skin from the sun. Here are a few rules to keep in mind:

- Keep babies younger than 6 months out of direct sunlight.
- Wear a hat with an all-around brim.
- Limit sun exposure between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., when UV rays are strongest.
- Use sunscreen.

The American Academy of Pediatrics offers more tips, including how to choose the

best sunscreen. Go to their website to [learn more](#).

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.

Visit Our Website



FOLLOW US FOR MORE RESOURCES



Better Beginnings is Arkansas' tiered quality rating and 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 Education and Office of Early Childhood.



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