



Literacy



Math



Science

Provider Buzz | June 2025



better beginnings

EVERY CHILD DESERVES OUR BEST



**A NOTE FROM
KELLI HILBURN**

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Summer doesn't mean a break for us. In early care and education, our work continues because the families we serve don't get a break either. That's why it's so important for you to prioritize your well-being with a self-care summer. I encourage you to embrace self-care because when you're recharged and refreshed, you're better able to care for the children in your classrooms. Our friends at [Curricula Concepts](#) have a great program, [Be Well, Care Well](#), that can support you and

your entire facility. Learn more below and keep reading for more tips to create a healthier, more balanced summer!

Also included in this month's edition of the *Buzz* are:

- Play-based [math resources](#) to make learning fun.
- A reminder about [BehaviorHelp](#).
- The details for today's [provider call](#).

What you do is important to the children and families you serve. Be the best you by taking care of yourself.

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



See how you can bring the Make it Math [resource](#) into your classroom by watching the video below!



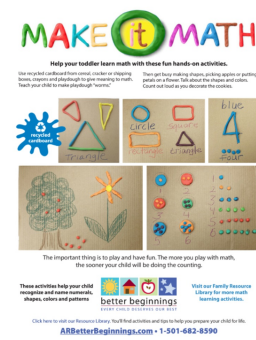
MAKE IT MATH



PLAY,
LEARN,
EXPLORE

LEARNING RESOURCES





Make it Math

Help toddlers learn important math skills with these hands-on activities. Using playdough, children can learn shapes, colors, and counting. Check out this resource for more.

[View Resource](#)

Simon Says Roll

Help children learn to count through play! This fun game can be put together using material found around your facility. Learn how with this resource.

[View Resource](#)

Let's Make Music

Crafting musical instruments can help children learn the math concept of measuring while they're having fun! By learning through play, what they learn is more likely to stick with them. Get full instructions with this resource.

[View Resource](#)



LEARNING IS FUN!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Our friends at [Curricula Concepts](#) offer a staff wellness program designed to improve physical, mental, and emotional health for early care and education providers. A coach supports all facility staff and helps them make and accomplish wellness goals so they can better help the children in their care. Learn more today.

[Learn More](#)



[Behavior Help](#)

Working with children exhibiting difficult behaviors is a challenge. That's where the BehaviorHelp team can come in. The team is made up of experts in child development who are ready to assist. Learn more and submit a help request online today.

[Learn More](#)



Monthly Provider Call

Tuesday, June 3, Zoom @ Noon

Zoom with representatives from the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and get the latest news on early care and education in Arkansas. These calls happen on the first Tuesday of every

month at noon and are recorded. Recordings are available to watch on the OEC website.
Find the Zoom link on the Better Beginnings website.

[Learn More](#)

2nd Annual Physical Activity Summit

Our friends at Curricula Concepts are hosting two days of FREE professional development on physical activity! Hear from Dr. Diane Craft and other experts on active play, incorporating music, staff wellness, and more. Register today.

[Learn More](#)

Infant/Toddler Extravaganza

Tuesday, June 14, Little Rock

Join our friends at A-State Childhood Services and other infant and toddler teachers for a day of learning. You'll also have opportunities to share in the joy of caring for our youngest learners. Register today!

[Register Here](#)



BETTER BEGINNINGS

STAR APPROVALS

QUALITY CARE!

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



The following program is now **6-star** Better Beginnings provider:

- First Presbyterian Church ABC Preschool, Warren
- Woods Elementary Preschool, Fort Smith



The following program is now **5-star** Better Beginnings provider:

- Green Forest Head Start - Green Forest
- Lots of Love Inc DCFH, Pine Bluff



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

- Junction City Head Start - Early Head Start - ABC, Junction City
- Rockefeller Early Childhood Education Program, Little Rock



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

- Bright Beginnings Early Development Center, Batesville



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

- Quitman Preschool, Quitman

Level Up Resource

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

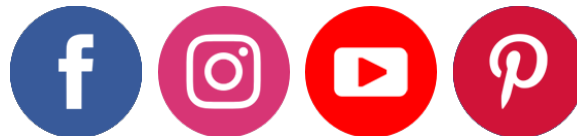
[Visit our Website](#)



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
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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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