



June 2022



A Note from Better Beginnings Program Administrator Kelli Hilburn



July is science month! I love when science month comes around because I get to talk about all the different, kid-friendly scientific experiments that are available in the [science](#) section of the [Family Resource Library](#).

Experiments can foster fun and play, which is how children learn best. When children get to have fun with their families, it's even better.

I know you're looking for some fun and engaging activities for the upcoming school year. Maybe plan a science day. This is a great opportunity to bring your client-families together and will fill your center with lots of laughter. This is also a great opportunity to show parents what learning through play looks like by explaining what scientific principle their child is learning without knowing it.

Keep reading for a list of possible ideas you could organize for a special science day or any day you're in the classroom. Just have fun!

In today's *Buzz*, you'll also find [tips for keeping kids safe this summer](#) while they're playing outdoors, [resources](#) for providers that are looking to increase their level, upcoming early childhood events and the latest [star approvals](#). So, keep reading!

Until next time,

Kelli Hilburn

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BETTER BEGINNINGS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR
DIVISION OF CHILD CARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

SAFETY TIPS



June is [Safety Month](#). Keep the celebration going with these tips you can run with all summer long!

Sun Safety Tips

School is out, which means summer is here. Take advantage of the good weather to let your kids get outside more and enjoy the sunshine. But, be aware of the importance of sun safety.

Encourage your client-families to provide a hat and sunscreen when they drop off their children for summer care.

Here are four tips for keeping children safe in the hot sun:



Use Sunscreen

Apply sunscreen to children's arms, faces, and legs. Reapply sunscreen every two hours to ensure children are safe throughout the day.



Keep Water Available

It's easy for children to have so much fun they forget to drink water. Remind them to drink plenty of water so they don't get dehydrated.



Wear Hats

Hats provide additional sun protection for a child's face. Utilize hats alongside sunscreen and other recommended protection methods.



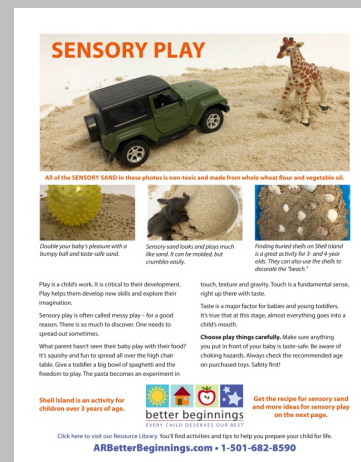
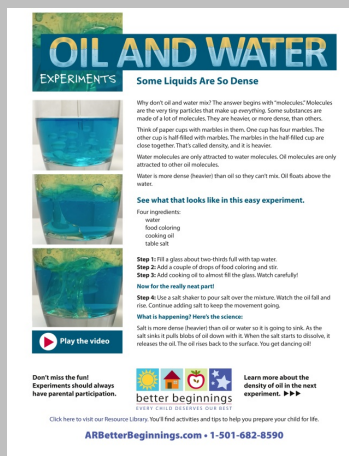
Provide Shade

All child care facilities are required to have shade in their outdoor play areas. You can have a man-made structure or a shade tree.

SCIENCE RESOURCES



Spark your children's interest or help your client-families continue the learning at home with these science [resources](#) from our [Family Resource Library](#).



Are the children in your class asking about where plants come from and how they grow? This resource will help you answer those questions by helping them see for themselves how plants start to grow.

Oil and water don't mix. That isn't just a saying - it's a fact. Using products that are fairly inexpensive, show kids how the molecules in water and oil refuse to mix together.

Children use all of their senses to explore the world. This resource includes activities that will allow children to safely explore the different textures of their world through touch.

The Sunflower Jar

Oil & Water Experiments

Sensory Play

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



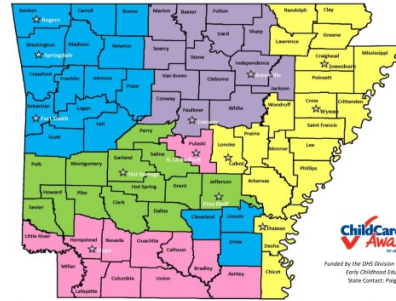
What can Child Care Aware do for you?

There are five [Child Care Aware](#) offices in Arkansas. Each office [serves](#) local child care providers in their assigned counties by:

- Providing training for providers and families.
- Assisting providers with leveling up star levels.
- Providing free resources for providers in their area.

These are just a few of the ways your local Child Care Aware office can help. Click [here](#) to find the office nearest you. Contact them today to find out what trainings are currently being offered and how you can get to the next Star Level.

Child Care Aware of Arkansas Resource & Referral Network



Agency	Office Location	Contact	Email	Phone	Website
Child Care Aware of Northwest Arkansas and River Valley	Springdale	Carlene Thornton Director	cthornton@nwachildcare.org	1-479-899-6334	nwachildcare.org
	Rogers	Michelle Wynn Asst. Director	mwyne@nwachildcare.org	1-479-899-6334	
	Fort Smith	Erica Hillard	ehillard@nwachildcare.org	1-479-222-6630	
Child Care Aware of Northcentral Arkansas	Batesville	Debbie Mae Crockett	dmccro@batesville.org	1-800-737-2237 Fax: 1-870-793-4035	CCANA.org
	Conway	Carol Crockett	carolcrockett5@gmail.com	1-501-327-6677 Fax: 1-501-327-6677	
Child Care Aware of Northeast Arkansas, Southeast Arkansas and Lonoke County	Jonesboro	Beverly Wright Director	bwright@astate.edu	1-870-973-3885 Fax: 1-870-972-3556	chs.astate.edu
	Wynne	Vacant	Vacant	1-870-208-8832 Fax: 1-870-208-8832	
	Dumas	Ronda Best	rbest@astate.edu	1-870-382-0200	
	Cabot	Lyndie Odle	lodle@astate.edu	1-501-941-2880	
Child Care Aware of Central and Southwest Arkansas	North Little Rock	Tiffani Fletcher Director	tiffani.fletcher@childcareawarecwa.org	1-501-374-0330 Fax: 1-501-374-2414	childcareawarecwa.org
	Hope	Dianna Stratton	dianna.stratton@childcareawarecwa.org	1-870-474-5191 Fax: 1-501-379-3414	
Child Care Aware of West Central Arkansas	Hot Springs	Tami Helms (Director)	tami.helms@op.edu	1-501-760-6388	op.edu/childcare-aware
	Pine Bluff	Jackie Riley	jacqueline.riley@op.edu	1-501-463-1482	
	Bryant	Thomas Gage	thomas.gage@op.edu	1-501-276-8565	

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Upcoming Early Childhood Conferences

Have questions about Better Beginnings? Well, you can ask us in person!

We will be at the [50th Arkansas State University Early Childhood Education Conference](#) August 8-9 and the [Arkansas Early Childhood Association Conference](#) October 12-15. Conferences are a great place to learn new ideas and network with each other. Hope to see you there!

Click [here](#) to register for the A-State conference in Jonesboro. Join us as we **Celebrate the Past and Shape the Future!**

Registration for the AECA conference will be announced soon. Keep an eye on their [website](#) for updates! This year's theme is **BeYOUTiful** and focuses on cultivating empathy, striving for equity, providing effective experiences, and empowering everyone.

BETTER BEGINNINGS STAR APPROVALS



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 **3-star** Better Beginnings providers:

- Busy Bee Day Care, Mountain View
- CB King Infant Center, McGehee
- CB King Memorial School Inc., McGehee
- Little Heroes Learning Academy, Jonesboro
- Luv N Hugs Day Care, Monticello
- Morrilton Head Start, Morrilton

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

- A Kid's Place Inc., Benton
- Brandon House Cultural & Performing Arts Center, Little Rock
- Christ Little Rock Early Childhood, Little Rock
- Cita Bee's Learning Academy, Pine Bluff
- Coal Hill Head Start, Coal Hill
- Cornerstone Christian Academy, Tillar
- Delony's Child Development Center, Mabelvale
- Dillon's Family Daycare, Hensley
- Early Steps Child Development Center III, North Little Rock
- Ethel's Educational Express CDC LLC, Jacksonville
- First Step Preschool, Searcy
- Forrester - Davis Preschool Center, Clarksville
- Good Morning Sunshine, Danville
- Good Shepherd, Monticello
- Good Shepherd Childcare & Preschool, Pine Bluff
- It's All About Kids, Monticello
- Janna's Little Angels, Little Rock
- John's Day School, Texarkana
- Kickin' Kids, Benton
- Kids World at Fairview, Rogers
- Kidz in Motion Learning Center, Centerton
- Love and Patience Child Care Center II, Little Rock
- Ministry of Intercession, Little Rock
- Mrs. Michales Kiddie Korner, Nashville
- Mrs. Shelby's Stepping Stones, Booneville
- My Little Angels Learning Academy, Jonesboro
- Peek N Play Daycare & Learning Center, El Dorado
- Precious Moments, Conway
- Quality Child Care Inc, Little Rock
- Rasing Hope Preschool and Daycare, Bentonville
- Success Learning Academy, El Dorado

- That After School Place LLC, Little Rock
- The After School Program at Rollins SOI, Springdale
- Tiny Feet Preschool, Fayetteville
- Woodland Academy, Rogers

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

- Apples N Oranges Enrichment Center, Little Rock
- Christ The King Catholic School, Fort Smith
- Darcy's Little Darlings, Greenwood
- Topps Inc. Teen Center, Pine Bluff

Congratulations to these providers! Thank you for everything you do to keep Arkansas children safe, nourished, and well. If you are a Better Beginnings provider and are interested in moving up in star ratings, click [here](#).

Contact your local [Child Care Aware](#) office to get started on increasing your star level today! Scroll up to read our previous section on what Child Care Aware can do to help you level up.

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



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.

