



Literacy



Math



Science

Provider Buzz | March 2024



A NOTE FROM KELLI HILBURN

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Warmer days are upon us. The spring thaw feels renewing and brings great opportunities for [outdoor](#) play and exploration. I hope you are planning to plant outdoor flowers or gardens with your children this spring.

Learning through play is the best way young children learn. Outdoor play can help instill in children the skills they need to be successful in kindergarten and beyond while getting the physical activity they need for healthy development.

Children can also learn through planned play-based activities. As you keep reading, you'll find fun activities that can help children learn important [math](#) concepts on days when the weather prevents outdoor play. Be sure to check out the other resources and training opportunities included in this edition of *The Buzz*, which can help you [reach for the stars](#).

Spring is full of opportunities for fun and play. I hope you're able to be present and enjoy these days because when you experience joy, the children in your care do, too.

Until next time,

Kelli Hilburn

Kelli Hilburn
BETTER BEGINNINGS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



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

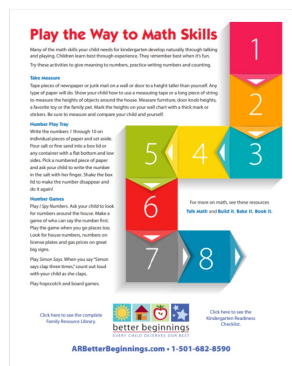


Watch the video below to see how playdough can help children learn colors and numbers.




LEARNING RESOURCES

PLAY, LEARN, EXPLORE

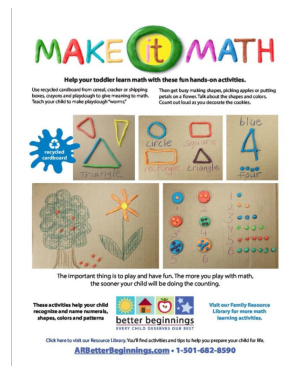
Play the Way to Math Skills

When children have fun, they're more likely to remember what they learn. The activities in this resource can help them learn to count and write their numbers.

[View Resource](#)


Simon Says Roll

Turn a fun and familiar game into a learning experience that can help children learn and master important math concepts. Use this resource as your guide.

[View Resource](#)


Make it Math

Help toddlers recognize numbers, shapes, colors, and patterns using playdough! Find out more using this resource.

[View Resource](#)



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



WOW - Working Toward Optimal Wellness

UAMS has created a new program dedicated to improving the health and wellness of Arkansas child care providers. Throughout March, groups of child care providers will meet to discuss topics such as wellness, self-care, and effective communication. Learn more and sign up to attend a group with the button below.

[Learn More](#)



Provider Tools

Are you ready to pursue your next level of quality? Our provider tools can help you get started. Check them out today!

[Learn More](#)



2024 Arkansas Early Childhood Administrator Conference March 15, 2024

Join your fellow administrators at DeGray Lake Lodge near Arkadelphia. You'll network, strengthen your skills, and learn about your role in effective professional development from Brian Washburn with [Endurance Learning](#).

[Register Today](#)

Arkansas Children's Week April 6 -12, 2024

Arkansas Children's Week will be here before we know it! Get ready to Share Key Experiences with the children in your care all week long. Want to get t-shirts or other items to celebrate? You have until Friday, March 29 to get the orders in.



OEC Background Check System Training
April 24, 2024

Want to learn more about the background check system? Attend a live training on the electronic background check system from Office of Early Childhood representatives via Zoom. Training will begin at noon.

Learn More

Arkansas Head Start Association Conference Better Beginnings Q&A Session
May 2, 2024

Have questions about Better Beginnings? Our Program Manager, Lisa Busch, wants to answer them! Email your questions to lisa.busch@ade.arkansas.gov today. Be sure to attend her session at the Arkansas Head Start Association conference on Thursday, May 2 to get the answers.



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.



SIX-STAR PROVIDERS

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

- Chris Eichler DCFH, Romance
- Little Ladybug Daycare, Harrison
- Ready Set and Learn, Jonesboro
- Warren ABC Preschool, Warren
- Winston's Tender Care, Pine Bluff



FIVE-STAR PROVIDERS

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

- Bryant Pre-School Bryant Elementary, Bryant
- Landmark Elementary School, Little Rock
- Mother Goose, Eudora
- Westside ABC Preschool, Hartman
- Westside Warriors Preschool Center, Jonesboro

FOUR-STAR PROVIDERS

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

- Adair Early Head Start, Siloam Springs
- Dawson Coop/Glen Rose ABC, Malvern
- DeWitt Daycare, DeWitt
- Harrison Preschool, Harrison
- Heber Springs Elementary Panther Cubhouse, Heber Springs
- Lavaca Elementary School Preschool, Lavaca
- Malvern Head Start, Malvern
- Pre-K Oakbrooke Elementary, Sherwood
- Rose Bud ABC School, Rose Bud
- Southside School Child Care, Batesville
- Swifton ABC Preschool, Swifton

THREE-STAR PROVIDERS

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

- The Kidsney Zone Early Learning Academy, Jonesboro
- The Learning Center of North Arkansas, Inc., Harrison
- Wallace Childcare EHS, West Helena

TWO-STAR PROVIDERS

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

- BGCBC @ Bellview, Rogers
- BGCBC @ Eastside, Rogers
- BGCBC @ Jones, Rogers
- BGCBC @ Reagan, Rogers
- Farmington Pre-Kindergarten Center, Farmington
- Kidd Kave Learning Center 2, Little Rock
- Little Kings & Queens Learning Academy, Hope
- Stepping Stones Learn and Play, Huntsville
- UAMS DBA Kids First, Morrilton

ONE-STAR PROVIDERS

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

- St. Catherine of Siena Child Care, Barling
- We Are The Future Daycare, Camden

Level Up Resource

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

[Visit Our Website](#)

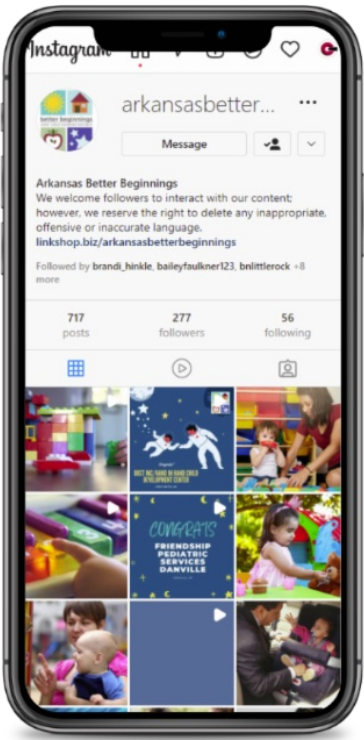
WHAT IS BETTER BEGINNINGS?



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' 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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