



Literacy



Math



Science

Family Buzz | May 2023



A NOTE FROM KELLI HILBURN

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Special people become foster families, which is why we're glad to bring special honor to those families this month in honor of [National Foster Care Month](#). Thank you to all our foster families out there for your dedication to providing some of the most vulnerable children in Arkansas a safe, nurturing home. The hard and consuming work you do is incredible. I hope you make time to care for your mental, emotional, and physical health. You've earned it.

Now that we've made it to May, it's time to start thinking about summer safety. It will be hot before we know it so keep reading for some recommended safety tips to help keep your child happy and healthy all summer long. If you're looking to keep the learning going this summer, use the [math](#) resources listed below and lay a solid foundation this summer that will prepare children to [reach for the stars](#) in kindergarten and beyond.

And, don't forget! [Provider Appreciation Day](#) is also happening this month on Friday, May 12. Show your child care provider how much you appreciate their work and their dedication to providing high-quality care for your child.

And to all you moms out there, I wish you a very Happy Mother's Day!

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



**VIDEO
CORNER**

WATCH NOW

Math isn't just adding and subtracting and counting. It's shapes, too. Grab some playdough and use the [Make it Math](#) resource as your guide to bring all of these concepts to life. Watch the video below for guidance on how to use this resource.



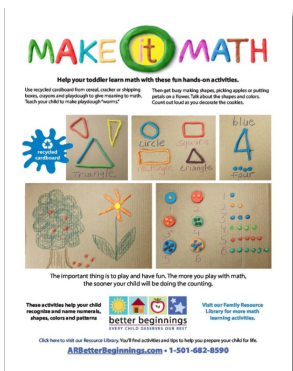
**PLAY,
LEARN,
EXPLORE**

LEARNING RESOURCES



Talk Math

Children learn best through repetition. So, bring math to your child by repeatedly singing,



Make it Math

Use recycled cardboard from food or shipping boxes, crayons, and playdough to give



Paper Playground

This resource is full of ways to use common household items to build something fun, like a golf

talking, and playing. Check out this resource for ideas.

[View Resource](#)

meaning to math. Use this resource as a guide for creating shapes and numbers and talking to your child about them.

[View Resource](#)

course. While building and playing, your child will develop math concepts and physical skills while having fun.

[View Resource](#)



The 2023 Arkansas Outstanding Early Childhood Professionals are **Shalynn Lane** and **Shenitta Shephard**! Congratulations on being recognized by your colleagues for your passion and dedication to the children and families of Arkansas.

Shalynn Lane (middle) is the owner of Mrs. Sha’s Preschool in Ash Flat, where she has served her community for more than 20 years. In that time, she has touched over 500 families and 900 children through her family child care home. Kelli Hilburn (left) and Lisa Busch (right) from the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education presented her with her award during Arkansas Children’s Week in April.



Shenitta Shephard is the education coordinator at UAMS Head Start in Little Rock, where she works with children ages birth to five. She began her career at the program as a volunteer, at which point she learned she wanted to be part of something great. Kelli Hilburn (left) and Paige Cox (right) from the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education presented her with her award during Arkansas Children’s Week in April.

Learn more about these providers and the award on the Arkansas DHS website.

[Learn More](#)



LEARNING
IS FUN!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Summer Safety

As the days increasingly get hotter, the chance for sun damage increases – especially for children. Check out the four tips below to keep children safe this summer, and click the button to learn more!

Read More



1. Stay Hydrated

Children can get so caught up in playing outside they forget to drink water. Keep water handy and remind them to take water breaks often.

2. Wear Sunscreen

The best way to protect your child’s skin from the summer sun is sunscreen. Protecting their skin now reduces the chance of severe damage in the future.

3. Wear Hats

Hats are a simple yet fun way to protect a child’s face and neck while accessorizing any outfit.

4. Utilize Shady Spots

Shade can occur naturally from trees or building, but it can also be made. Use a sheet or umbrella to make a shady spot of your own and provide further protection.



Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood

The U.S. Department of Defense launched their fee assistance program, Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood Plus, in Arkansas. Find out more, including how you can apply for the program on the Child Care Aware of America [website](#).

Learn More



Summer Fun with the Kids
May 23, 6 - 7 p.m.

Over Zoom, participants will discuss and evaluate summer activities that are fun, safe, provide learning opportunities, and develop a sense of enjoyment throughout the time at home with their children.

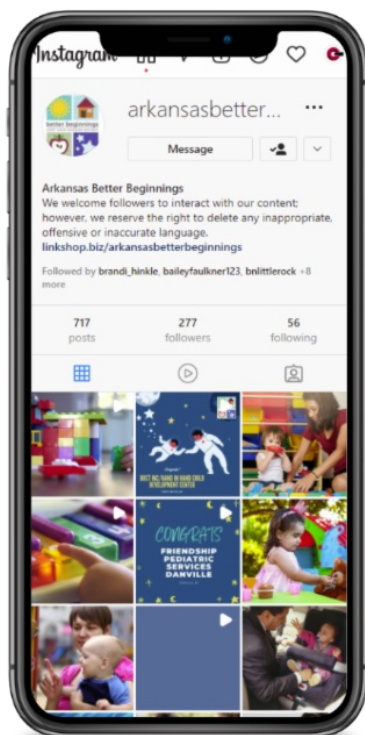
Register

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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