



Literacy



Math



Science

Family Buzz | May 2024



better beginnings

EVERY CHILD DESERVES OUR BEST



**A NOTE FROM
KELLI HILBURN**

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Celebrating the achievements of the early care and education providers around Arkansas is one of the many things I enjoy. This month, we hope you'll join in the fun for **Provider Appreciation Day** on Friday, May 10.

While their work often goes unnoticed, early care and education providers allow you to be

more productive at work and give your child high-quality learning environments so they're always reaching for the stars. Help us shine a light on the workforce behind the workforce by sharing their stories, starting with the provider who cares for your child every day. Planning to share your appreciation on social media? Use the hashtag #ThankYouChildCare and tag us when you do!

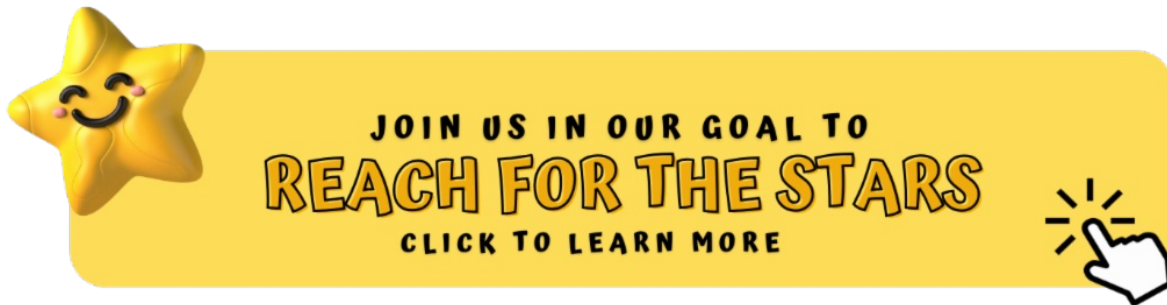
May is also all about **literacy** so keep reading this edition of *The Buzz* to get fun, age appropriate ways to bring the joy of books into your home. You'll find our Raise a Reader series, information about **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**, and a list of books to read to your child that can help them get ready for **kindergarten**. Summer is also right around the corner so check out our summer safety tips.

Your early care and education provider is your partner in laying a foundation for success in kindergarten and beyond. I hope you'll join us in celebrating them and elevating their achievements as you work together to help your child **reach for the stars**.

Until next time,

Kelli Hilburn

Kelli Hilburn
BETTER BEGINNINGS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Children are eager to discover new things, like the ability to turn pages and words they can say. Share the joy of making books part of their daily routine. Watch this video to see how.

**I'll show you
the billy goats.**

**RAISE
— A —
READER**



**PLAY,
LEARN,
EXPLORE**

LEARNING RESOURCES



UAMS wants to know what child development and parenting resources you prefer! Your feedback will help researchers create and provide more useful tools. Fill out the survey and you'll get entered to win a \$25 Walmart gift card.

Only parents of children six years old and younger can take the survey, which closes Friday, May 10.

[Start the Survey](#)



[Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#)

Get the child in your life a free book every month in the mail. Sign them up today on Dolly Parton's Imagination Library website. All children ages birth to age five can participate.

[Learn More](#)

[Kindergarten Readiness](#)

Looking for a way to help your child learn about nature and how things grow? Here's a list of recommended books to help from the Getting Ready for Kindergarten Calendar, which is available on the Better Beginnings website.

[Learn More](#)

The Carrot Seed by Ruth Kraus and Crockett Johnson

Growing Vegetable Soup by Lois Ehlert

If You Give a Pig a Pancake by Laura Numeroff and Felicia Bond

What if Everybody Did That? by Ellen Javernick and Colleen Madden



HEALTH AND SAFETY



Summer is almost here, which means children will be playing outside more. Here are four tips to keep your child safe.

- 1. Apply Sunscreen:** Applying sunscreen, and reapplying every two hours, can help prevent sunburn and reduce your child's risk for skin cancer in the future.
- 2. Keep Water Close:** Children can get so busy having fun they forget to drink water. Encourage your child to drink water often so they don't get dehydrated.
- 3. Play in the Shade:** Playing in the shade is another way to prevent sunburn. If your backyard doesn't offer any natural shade, use a bedsheet or tent to create your own!
- 4. Remember Car Safety:** Your child's body heats up three to five times faster than yours. This [resource](#) from the American Academy of Pediatrics offers ways for important safety reminders.



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' 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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