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ARKANSAS BETTER BEGINNINGS CONGRATULATES PROVIDERS ON NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

SEVEN NORTHWEST ARKANSAS CHILD CARE FAMILY HOME PROVIDERS AWARDED NATIONAL ACCREDITATION



Better Beginnings congratulates seven child care family home providers in Northwest Arkansas on earning national accreditation.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (March 17, 2022) – [Better Beginnings](#), a program of the Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education focusing on giving children the best possible care, is congratulating seven Northwest Arkansas child care family home providers for receiving national accreditation from the [National Association for Family Child Care](#) (NAFCC).

This accreditation is awarded to child care family home providers that meet the highest standards for home-based quality care in early care and education. This is the only national accreditation awarded to child care family home providers.

These recently awarded child care family home providers advanced to Better Beginnings [Star Level 3](#), the highest quality level that can be achieved. Accreditation was earned after completing 120 hours of professional development and an extensive review, including observation and council approval.

“The process for getting nationally accredited was very extensive and these providers supported each other along the way,” said Kelli Hilburn, program administrator for Better Beginnings. “We are proud of their work and their tenacity to continue improving quality child care in Arkansas.”

The seven Northwest Arkansas child care family home providers who received the accreditation are:

- **Bentonville** – Mary Line, IDC & Nursery School FCCH
- **Farmington** – Carolyn Carney, Happy Day Child Care Center
- **Fayetteville** – Susan Meek, Sue Meek Home Daycare
- **Garfield** – Michelle Mendoza, In His Care Children’s Center
- **Huntsville** – Krista Houston, Little Eagles Nest
- **Prairie Grove** – Lisa Wood, Lisa Wood Daycare
- **Siloam Springs** – Linda Adams, The Hunny Tree

These child care family home providers worked together as part of a cohort, supporting each other through the accreditation process. Those involved in managing the cohort reported significant improvements developed in the service of these homes throughout the process.

“The greatest thing about the accreditation is that it honors the culture of the individual families and the homes,” said Debbie Mays, program manager for the cohort. “The standards can look different in each home.”

Any child care family home provider can apply for accreditation on the NAFCC’s [website](#). The [standards](#) providers must meet in order to earn accreditation are available to the public.

For more information on finding quality child care in Arkansas or to learn more about Better Beginnings, follow their social media channels on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#), or visit [arbetterbeginnings.com](#).

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About Arkansas Better Beginnings:

[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](#). Better Beginnings connects Arkansas families with the information and care that helps children experience a safe, happy and healthy childhood.