

better
beginnings  **for Providers**
buzz

Department of Human Services Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education

NOVEMBER 2020



A SPECIAL NOTE FROM DAWN JEFFREY



Providers,

We hope your Turkey Day was fabulous! We can't help but be filled with **gratitude** when we reflect on 2020. We are always grateful, **but this year especially.**

We are so grateful for you. Each one of you has taken the challenge of 2020 head on and risen to the occasion. **We thank you for keeping the health and safety of our kids your top priority.**

Arkansas providers have done an outstanding job at **adjusting to our new normal.** We know it hasn't been easy, but you have done it anyway. Thank you for providing the very best care for Arkansas kids.

They deserve it.

We want to encourage you to **stay connected** with us through the holiday season. As you all know, numbers are on the rise again. This means **possible closures and/or new pandemic procedures could be coming our way**. Good thing you guys are used to the never-ending surprises of 2020. **You guys are pros at adjusting when necessary.**

Find the current pandemic procedures [here](#).

Just another reason we are so proud of Arkansas providers.

We will communicate all updates via e-mail and social media, so keep your eyes peeled.

Stay healthy and keep up your outstanding work,



Dawn Jeffrey M.S.E.

Division of Early Child Care and Early Childhood Education
Program Manager for Better Beginnings

NETWORK INFORMATION CONSORTIUM (NIC) BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM TRAINING CALL



IMPORTANT!

We are so happy to see so many providers using our new **Network Information Consortium (NIC)**, formerly known as **INA, Background Check System**.

Since it is so new to many of us, we are hosting a **virtual training call on December 2 at 12 p.m.**

We want this to be a tool for you--something to make things easier. **So, we will walk you through the program, step-by-step.**

If you experience any problems with the automated system, like uploading consent forms or correcting errors, please contact the **NIC Helpdesk at 866-242-4649 or via email at help@ina.ar.gov.**

For help setting up your NIC subscription account, call 501-683-5037. For sending documents, the fax number is 888-739-2284.

Will you be joining the call?

DATE AND TIME

12/02/20 12:00pm - 12/02/20 1:00pm

Count me in!

Maybe

I can't make it

To Join Via Computer:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88208984519>

To Join Via Phone:

1-312-262-6799

Meeting ID:

882 0898 4519

JOIN VIA COMPUTER

THANK YOU PROVIDERS!

We had several providers help us make our anniversary celebration extra magical by submitting countdown videos.

Check out this special message from **First School, Fayetteville.**



STAY TUNED! Over the next year, we will be featuring all of our provider countdown videos in our Provider Buzz Newsletters.

SEE MORE PROVIDER COUNTDOWN VIDEOS HERE.

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.

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

- **PRAIRIE GROVE** - Appleseed Academy
- **MORRILTON** - Country Kids Daycare
- **SPRINGDALE** - Butterflies and Frogs Too
- **LOWELL** - Coleman's Children's Academy
- **PEA RIDGE** - Linda's Kids Home Daycare
- **JONESBORO** - You're All My Art Children's College Phase II
- **TEXARKANA** - Courtney's Castle
- **NORTH LITTLE ROCK** - Alexander-Turner
- **LITTLE ROCK** - Tender Hearts Learning Center
- **EUDORA** - Kids R Us
- **BARLING** - Tiny Treasures Childcare, LLC.
- **LITTLE ROCK** - Christian Scholars Learning Academy
- **EL DORADO** - Stepping Stones Childcare, LLC.
- **LITTLE ROCK** - Little Sprouts Learning Center
- **NORTH LITTLE ROCK** - Centers for Joy (Lighthouse Academies)
- **NORTH LITTLE ROCK** - Central Arkansas Montessori

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

- **WEST HELENA** - A-STATE ABC CENTRAL
- **LITTLE ROCK** - FAMILY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

If you are a Better Beginnings provider and are interested in moving up in star ranking, click [here](#).

CHECK OUT OUR NEW MATH RESOURCE

Paper Playground for Learning Fun

Paper Playground for Learning Fun
Math • Creative Thinking • New Words

Rainy or cold weather doesn't mean your child has to be bored. You can create your own activity right at home. You probably won't even have to go to the store.

These activities are not about **scoring** (but you will make big time cool-parent points with your child).

The objective is to develop math concepts, physical skills and **have fun**. So, get creative. Make goofy sports equipment and a paper playground. Talk about **numbers, distances and angles**. Toss around some **new words**. **Find out more about what is learned on the next page.**

You'll need:

- Lightweight balls
- Any and all kinds of tape (whatever you have)
- Crayons or markers (let your child create a masterpiece decorating the plain surfaces)
- Scissors
- Recycled newspaper funny pages, folders, wrapping paper, boxes and tubes
- Paper cups
- Large serving utensils


Get details on how to make your own paper playground on the next page.

Get more fun ways to learn about math - visit our Family Resource Library here.

Click here to learn how to recycle to make your own musical instruments!

Click here to visit our Resource Library. You'll find activities and tips to help you prepare your child for life.

ARBetterBeginnings.com • 1-501-682-8590



Paper Playground for Learning Fun
Math • Creative Thinking • New Words

Making these tools for play takes creative thinking, experimentation, and a good bit of tape. If a child took markers and crayons to the paper, they would be even more fun to play!

As you create together, talk about shapes and sizes. Notice how the pieces fit together.

How to make a mallet: Cut slits in the end of a paper towel tube and spread them out. Fold the ends over the side of a closed tube box. Tape. Tape. Tape. Cover tape as shown above.

How to make golf clubs: Insert a spatula or serving spoon into a paper tube. Use heavy-duty tape to secure the utensil to the tube.

Easy to Make & Play

Paper Cup Bowling For Numbers

Flat Box Balled-Sock Toss (No bags required)

What Your Child Gains from These Activities:

- Understanding of numbers
- Has opportunities to extend vocabulary
- Eye-hand coordination
- Has opportunity for using large muscles
- Develops awareness of himself in space in relation to other objects
- Develops an awareness of distances and angles
- Develops and refines physical coordination and balance
- Has satisfying and challenging experiences
- Gains self-confidence and sense of worth

Visit our Family Resource Library for more fun and games that teach math.

Click here to learn to how sorting teaches math in our free Family Resource Library.

Click here to visit our Resource Library. You'll find activities and tips to help you prepare your child for life.

ARBetterBeginnings.com • 1-501-682-8590



Keep your kiddos entertained this winter with our new math resource, **Paper Playground for Learning Fun**. Gather everyday items from around the house to create a **golf course or croquet game in your classroom**.

Practice math as you keep score, measure distances and look at different angles. Get them **moving** as each team tries to win. Introduce them to **new words** as you play new games!

CHECK OUT MORE MATH RESOURCES HERE

CHECK OUT THE NEW TRENDING PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE

Have you seen the newest update to our website? We just added a **TRENDING tab!**

There, you'll find our newest learning resources like this **Mini Woodland Garden** science resource or our **What Do You See** literacy resource.

Also, if you click on **Trending Topics**, you'll find even **MORE** content. **Feature stories, Buzzes, COVID-19** updates and more.

Check it out today.



TRENDING TOPICS

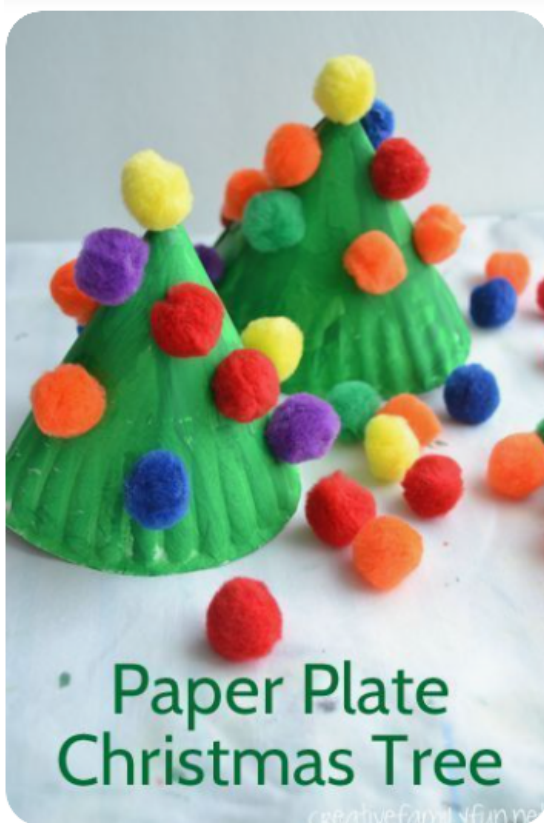


COVID-19 RESOURCES



SIGN UP FOR THE BUZZ

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK US OUT ON PINTEREST



Head over to [Pinterest](#) and give us a follow.

We have [holiday boards](#), [math boards](#), [literacy boards](#) and [movement boards](#).

Let's face it, keeping your kids entertained and focused is likely to be a challenge **between Thanksgiving and Christmas.**

Try this adorable [Paper Plate Christmas Tree activity](#). You can find it on our [Christmas Crafts and Activities board](#), along with many other holiday classroom fun!

FIND US ON PINTEREST HERE

WHAT IS BETTER BEGINNINGS?

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUT

OR, check us out on [social media](#).



Better Beginnings | DCCECE, Attn: Better Beginnings, PO Box 1437, Slot S150,
Little Rock, AR 72203-1437

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#).

[Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by arbetterbeginnings@gmail.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!