



Literacy



Math



Science

Provider Buzz | November 2022



Fall is really here! Marking the start of a new season is fun and exciting because we're prompted to take in what's new: the leaves as they change color, the cooler weather, and the rejuvenation that can happen when we take a chance to notice the changing world around us, especially the cooler weather.

The cooler weather is a great time to discuss temperature and how a smaller number means the air is cooler. It's a math concept perfect for [National STEM/STEAM Day](#)!

This year, National STEM/STEAM Day falls on Tuesday, November 8, so we included activities to help inspire [math](#) learning. We also have a short recap on the [Arkansas Early Childhood Association](#) conference. If you missed it, check out the [special edition](#) we sent out last month with full details.

We're also celebrating some of YOU this month! Several child care centers in Arkansas received a [grant](#) from UAMS to create private, safe rooms in their facility for staff and client-families who are breastfeeding or pumping moms. Keep reading for more details.

Don't forget about the latest star approvals. It has been great seeing all of you reaching for the stars! You've each done a fantastic job at ensuring more children in Arkansas have access to high-quality child care.

Keep up the good work. Wishing you a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

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



PLAY,
LEARN,
EXPLORE

LEARNING RESOURCES



Let's Make Music

Wait, music is math? It sure is! It's especially true when children build their own instruments as they will with this resource.

[View Resource](#)



Make it Math

Help children learn math with these hands-on activities. Have fun because that will get them counting sooner.

[View Resource](#)



Sorting Sacks

Sorting shapes and colors helps children learn to organize by "same" and "different," a skill used in math.

[View Resource](#)



LEARNING
IS FUN!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Provider Calls

Zoom with representatives from the [Division of Child Care and Early Childhood](#) to discuss issues and updates related to child care. You can find the call schedule and the Zoom links on the Better Beginnings website.

[View the Schedule](#)



Sort Leaves for Kindergarten Readiness

Did you know children start sorting things around two years old? Take advantage of this natural developmental step, and encourage children to sort the fall leaves by size, shape, and color. Check out our latest press release to learn more.

[Read the Release](#)

7 Tips for a Good Night's Sleep

Daylight saving time ended yesterday which can throw off children's sleep schedules. View our resource for tips to help you and your children adjust to the time change.

[View the Tips](#)



UAMS Provider Grants

Fifteen child care providers received grants from the [UAMS](#) Department of Family and Preventative Medicine's State Physical and Nutrition for Arkansas [program](#) to create comfortable rooms for staff or client-families who are nursing babies. These spaces give nursing moms a safe, private place to pump or breastfeed.

UAMS [featured](#) the rooms created by [Lovely Sunshine Learning Center](#) in Little Rock, ABC Preschool in Heber Springs, and Janna's Little Angels in Little Rock. Great work!

UPCOMING EVENTS

River Valley Early Childhood Association

The River Valley Early Childhood Association is meeting Tuesday, November 15 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. to discuss the T.E.A.C.H. program. The event is free for people interested in furthering their education in the early childhood education field.

[Learn More](#)

We had a lot of fun gathering at the Arkansas Early Childhood Association Conference with you, and we can't wait to do it again. Check out our favorite moments below!



Member of our staff stand alongside AECA keynote speaker and member of the Zac Brown Band, **Coy Bowles**, with his book ***Behind the Little Red Door***.



Better Beginnings staff members pose for a quick photo in front of our booth.



Coy Bowles, keynote speaker, addresses conference attendees.



Brenda Suarez, Better Beginnings program coordinator, speaks with a conference visitor.

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.

THREE STAR PROVIDERS

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

- Little Martians Learning Center, Rogers

- Brandon House Cultural & Performing Arts Center, Little Rock
- The After School Program at Hellstern, Springdale
- The After School Program Hub, Springdale



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

- The New Generation, White Hall
- Burtons Childcare Center, McGehe
- KidSpot Blytheville/ Kids Spot Plus LLC, Blytheville
- Happy Place Childcare. LLC, Conway
- Luvng My Kids Learning Center, Jonesboro
- D&C Childcare, Danville
- Rosie in Home Care, England
- Mrs. Krystal's Preschool, Highland



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

- Abundant Love Childcare Center, Jonesboro
- Miracle Kids Success Academy North Campus, Jonesboro

Congratulations to these providers! Thank you for everything you do to keep Arkansas children safe, nourished and well. If you are interested in becoming a Better Beginnings provider or moving up in star ratings, click the button below!

Provider Star
Ratings

Level Up Resource

Looking to increase your star level or to start your journey to become a Better Beginnings provider? Check out the [Provider Tools](#) section of our website to find the information you need to start your journey.

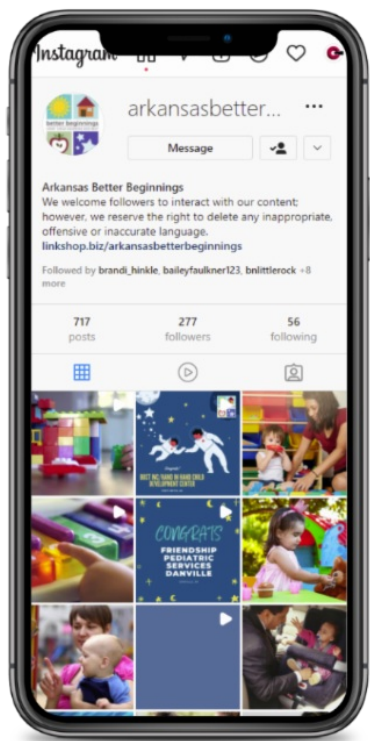
Visit our
Website



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





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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