



Literacy



Math



Science

Provider Buzz | November 2023



## A NOTE FROM KELLI HILBURN

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Getting lost in a good book is one of my favorite pastimes. Books are incredible tools to cultivate curiosity and expand imagination in young children. Children can safely explore the world around them through reading while building a solid foundation for future educational and lifelong success.

You are a portal to exploration and discovery every time you read a book to the children in your room. Use the [literacy](#) resources included below to make the experience more fun. As you're reading through the rest of this newsletter, you'll also find [tips](#) to keep children healthy this winter and information about [Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#) to share with your client families. I hope you join me in encouraging parents to sign up for Imagination Library and read with their children at home.

Your passion for increasing the literacy of Arkansas's youngest citizens is inspiring. I hope you're able to find rejuvenation in the upcoming holiday season so you can end the year strong by [reaching for the stars](#).

Until next time,

*Kelli Hilburn*

**Kelli Hilburn**  
BETTER BEGINNINGS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR  
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



JOIN US IN OUR GOAL THIS YEAR TO  
**REACH FOR THE STARS**  
CLICK TO LEARN MORE

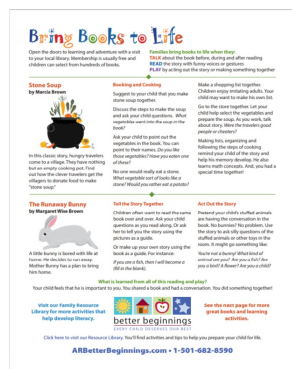


Turn your classroom into a movie set, using a book as your script! Watch the video below to see how doing this helps bring a book to life and sparks imagination.



PLAY,  
LEARN,  
EXPLORE

## LEARNING RESOURCES



### Bring Books to Life

Are you ready to create little bookworms? With the help of the activities in this resource, you'll do just that. Make reading a fun experience they will cherish forever.

[View Resource](#)


### Talk Math

Everyday conversations are a gold mine of knowledge. Even something as simple as counting toys gets children ready for future educational success. Check out this resource to learn more.

[View Resource](#)


### Word Play

Unleash the magic of childhood wonder through the open-ended activities found in this resource. Joy and giggles are sure to occur as children's curiosities and imaginations soar to new heights.

[View Resource](#)





LEARNING  
IS FUN!

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



## Activities for a Wonderful Winter

Don't let cold weather stand in fun's way. Outdoor play keeps children healthy by exercising their bodies and minds. Find five fun activities for learning outdoors in this resource.

[Learn More](#)



## Dolly Parton's Imagination Library



Children birth to five in all of Arkansas's 75 counties are eligible to receive a free book in the mail each month from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Every book is age-appropriate and encourages great times to bond as a family. Share their website with your client families and encourage them to sign up.

[Learn More](#)



### *Provider Call* Tuesday, November 7

Zoom with officials from the Office of Early Childhood and hear the latest news from the field of early childhood.

[Learn More](#)

### *River Valley Early Childhood Association Meeting* Tuesday, November 14

Join providers in the Fort Smith area to learn about biting – why it happens and how you can stop it. Get more details, including registration information, on the Arkansas

Learn More



Congratulations to these providers! It's exciting to see your commitment to quality on display as you [reach for the stars](#). Find everything you need to keep reaching on the Better Beginnings [website](#).



The following program is now a **6-star** Better Beginnings provider:

- Episcopal Collegiate School, Little Rock



The following program is now a **5-star** Better Beginnings provider:

- McGehee Preschool, McGehee



The following programs are now **4-star** Better Beginnings providers:

- CAPCA Bald Knob Head Start Center, Bald Knob
- CAPCA Head Start - Southside Center, Conway
- CAPCA Head Start, Quitman



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

- CAPCA Head Start Mills Center, Kensett
- MCAEOC North Elementary Early Head Start, Osceola
- Butterfly Babies Central, Paragould
- Lots of Love DCFH, Pine Bluff
- Childcare Network #190, Little Rock
- Nonee's World of Love and Learning, Benton



## TWO STAR PROVIDERS

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

- Kidspot Trumann Inc., Trumann
- Kidspot Jackson County, Inc., Tuckerman
- Guided Steps Childcare Center, Jacksonville
- Wonderful Beginnings Learning Center LLC, Little Rock
- Kids for the Future of Marion, West Memphis
- Community School of Cleburne County, Heber Springs
- Kids for the Future of Marianna, Marianna
- Kids for the Future of Forrest City, Forrest City

## ONE STAR PROVIDERS

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

- Mrs. Jos DCFH, Pine Bluff
- Our Lady of Holy Souls, Little Rock

### Level Up Resource

Looking to increase your star level? Check out our [Provider Tools](#) to get started!

Visit our Website

# 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' 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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