



Literacy



Math



Science

Family Buzz | November 2024



**better beginnings**

EVERY CHILD DESERVES OUR BEST



## A NOTE FROM KELLI HILBURN

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

As we enter the season of family gatherings, holiday foods and earlier nightfall, we hope you enjoy time cozied up with your children sharing a book or a story. It can be challenging to find the time, but moments like these are so rewarding. They build bonds and make memories that last a lifetime.

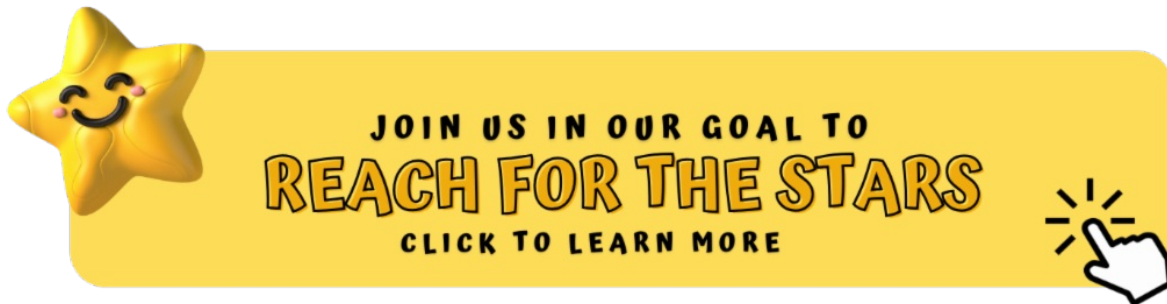
Reading with your child also boosts their language development and encourages them to [reach for the stars](#). The [literacy](#) resources we've included in this edition of the *Buzz* have activities you can do at home to nurture your child's development. Sign up for [Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#) to create your own at-home library. As you keep reading, you'll also see this month's [kindergarten readiness](#) tip and outdoor play safety [tips](#).

Joy is often found in the quiet moments we spend with those we love. I hope you're able to make the most of family time this holiday season.

Until next time,

*Kelli Hilburn*

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



**WATCH NOW** 

Why does reading with your child for [10 minutes](#) every day matter? It helps them discover the magic of books. Watch the video below then sit down with your child to read their favorite book.

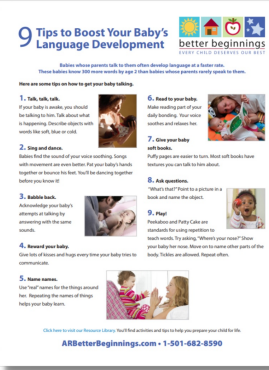


# LEARNING RESOURCES

PLAY, LEARN, EXPLORE







## Boost Your Baby's Language Development

The best way to boost a baby's language development is to talk to them! Tell them what's happening around them, repeat their babble, read to them, or try the other activities described in this resource to get your baby talking.

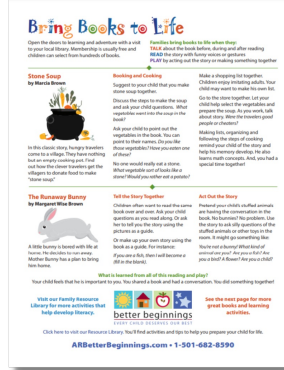
[View Resource](#)



## Advance Your Toddler's Brain Development

Children are constantly learning something, whether it's new words or how to have a conversation. This resource is full of simple activities you can do throughout the day that can help your toddler's brain make important connections.

[View Resource](#)



## Bring Books to Life

Reading is a great way to open the doors to learning and adventure. Need to get books? Visit your local public **library** and bring that book to life with the activities included with this resource.

[View Resource](#)



# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**LEARNING IS FUN!**





## [Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#)

Children birth through five in all 75 of Arkansas's counties are eligible to receive a free book in the mail each month from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library!

[Learn More](#)



## [Kindergarten Readiness Tip](#)

Help your child get kindergarten-ready by teaching them letters and words! Start with their name and go from there. Get more ways you can help prepare your child for kindergarten by downloading the Getting Ready for Kindergarten calendar.

[View Calendar](#)



## **Mealtime Moments**

*Sunday, November 24*

Meals are a great time to connect as a family. Join our friends at Curricula Concepts for a lunch break Zoom session to learn how you can foster positive mealtime habits and fun conversation starters to engage the whole family. Register today!

[Register](#)



# HEALTH AND SAFETY



## Outdoor Play & Safety Tips

Playing outside is fun and important for your child's development. Here are five safety tips to keep in mind as your child is exploring the world around them:

1. **Keep an eye on your child:** By actively watching your child while they're playing outdoors, you can step in to prevent them from getting into something that could hurt them.
2. **Put barriers between your child and water:** If you have a pool or other container full of water, put something around it to prevent your child from falling in.
3. **Anchor any home playground equipment:** Make sure any home play equipment you have in your yard is secure, so it doesn't fall while your child is playing on it.
4. **Remove dangerous plants from your yard:** Poison ivy, poison oak, and similar plants are common in yards. Remove them using child-safe pesticides.
5. **Help prevent bugs:** Remove any stagnant water from your wading pools, bird baths, or other structures to keep bugs from collecting. This can help keep bug bites to a minimum.

Get more [outdoor safety tips](#) from the American Academy of Pediatrics.



**WHAT IS  
BETTER BEGINNINGS?**



Better Beginnings means better opportunities. Investing in quality care and education 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's tiered quality rating and improvement system for child care, early education, and school-aged programs that have gone above and beyond the state minimum requirements. Better Beginnings is administered by the Arkansas Department of Education Office of Early Childhood.



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