



Literacy



Math



Science

Provider Buzz | November 2024



better beginnings

EVERY CHILD DESERVES OUR BEST



A NOTE FROM KELLI HILBURN

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

In this season of thankfulness, we want you to know how appreciative we are of your hard work and dedication. You're asked to do so much every day. I hope you remember that you're a shining light in the lives of the children in your care. Keep **reaching for those stars** so you can bring more high-quality care to the children of Arkansas.

Help the children in your care shine bright with the [literacy](#) resources included in this edition of the *Buzz*, including [Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#). You'll also see how you can shine a spotlight on yourself with the [Star Kits](#) and the latest round of star approvals. Don't forget about the monthly provider [call](#) on the the first Tuesday of each month and the last Town Hall for 2024. Both events [are](#) great places to learn about the latest updates from the [Office of Early Childhood](#).

[Better Beginnings](#) is honored to be your partner in bringing high-quality early care and education to more and more communities. The future is bright, and we're excited to move forward with you.

Until next time,



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



**VIDEO
CORNER**

WATCH NOW 🍿

Did you hear the news? We started a vlog series! Check out the first episode below with Geania Dickey to learn why making connections is important for young children. While you're there, subscribe to our YouTube [channel](#), so you don't miss the next episode.



LITERACY RESOURCES

WORDS ARE FUN!

Two smaller circular images at the bottom show a child reading a book and a child playing with toys.



LEARNING
IS FUN!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Star Kit

Have you reached a new star level? Share the news with your client-families and community using our Star Kit! You'll find a news release template, a badge for social media, and more so that you can make your achievement known.

[Learn More](#)



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! Share this resource with your client-families so they can cultivate a library of age-appropriate books in their home.

[Learn More](#)



Provider Call

Tuesday, November 5

Zoom with representatives from the Office of Early Childhood to hear the latest updates from the early care and education sector.

[Get the Link](#)

November Early Childhood Town Hall

Wednesday, November 6

The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) is back on the road this fall! You'll hear from OEC representatives about the current state of early childhood in Arkansas and have a chance to voice your wishes for the future.

Join us from 10 a.m. to noon at the Special Education Annex located at:
1902 Hairston St.
Conway, AR 72034

See you there!



BETTER BEGINNINGS
**STAR
APPROVALS**

QUALITY
CARE!



Help us congratulate your colleagues on hitting that next star level! Do you want to join this list? Visit the [Provider Tools](#) page to get started.



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

- Save the Children Headstart, Patterson



The following programs are now a **5-star** Better Beginnings provider:

- Adam's Clubhouse - Quality Care for Special Needs Children, Jacksonville
- Forest Park Elementary, Little Rock
- Little Rock School District Fulbright Elementary Pre-K, Little Rock
- Stephens Elementary, Little Rock
- Waldron ABC Program, Waldron



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

- ABC Preschool, Harrison
- Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary Pre-K, Little Rock



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

- First Start Learning Academy, Morrilton
- Huda Academy, Little Rock



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

- Cossatot River Preschool, Vandervoort
- First Steps Daycare LLC, Paragould
- Hamburg Childcare, Hamburg
- Hands - On Pediatric Learning Center, Jonesboro
- Integrity Childcare, Little Rock
- Kidspot Paragould Inc, Paragould
- Little Angels Playland Daycare, Texarkana
- McRae Elementary School, Searcy
- Sidney Deener Elementary School, Searcy
- Westside Elementary School, Searcy



The following program is now a **1-star** Better Beginnings provider:

- Learn Through Play Childcare LLC, Jonesboro

Level Up Resource

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

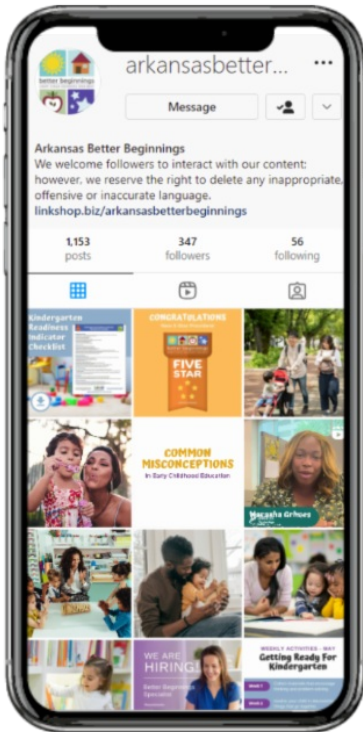
Visit our Website

WHAT IS BETTER BEGINNINGS?



Better Beginnings means better opportunities. Investing in quality early 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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