Provider Buzz | November 2024





# 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 <u>reaching for those</u> <u>stars</u> so you can bring more high-quality care to the children of Arkansas.

Help the children in your care shine bright with the<u>literacy</u> resources included in this edition of the *Buzz*, including <u>Dolly Parton's Imagination Library</u>. You'll also see how you can shine a spotlight on yourself with the <u>Star Kits</u> and the latest round of star approvals. Don't forget about the monthly provider <u>call</u> 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 <u>Office of Early Childhood</u>.

**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,

Keel Hilburn

Kelli Hilburn BETTER BEGINNINGS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD







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 <u>channel</u>, so you don't miss the next episode.







#### 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 do any of the other activities described in this resource to get a baby talking.



#### Advance Your Toddler's Brain Development

Children are constantly learning. By introducing new words or conversation, you can help them develop communication skills. This resource is full of simple activities you can do throughout the day that can help toddlers' brains make important connections.

Open the doors to learning and adven to your local library. Membership is us children can select from hundreds of b	ally free and TALK about the book READ the story with	a to the when they: before, during and after reading funny voices or gestures se story or making something together
Stone Soup by Marcia Brown	Booking and Cooking Suggest to your child that you make stone soup together.	Make a shopping list together. Children enjoy imitating adults. Your child may want to make his own list.
	Discuss the steps to make the soup and ask your child questions. What vepetables went into the soup in the book?	Go to the starse together. Let your child help select the vegetables and prepare the toogs. As you work, talk about story. When the towins good geople or cheaters?
In this classic story, hungry travelers come to a village. They have nothing but an empty cooking pot. Find out how the clever travelers get the villages to downle food to make "store scop."	Ask your child to point out the vegetables in the book. You can point to their names. Op you like those repetables? How you exten one of these? No one would really exit a stone. What repetables out of Joois IRe a stone? Wauld you wather ext a possa?	Making lists, organizing and following the streps of cooking semind your child of the story and help his memory dievelop, he also learns math concepts. And, you had a special time together!
The Runaway Bunny	Tell the Story Together	Act Out the Story
by Margaret Wise Brown	Coldram often word to read the same book over and over. Ask your child questions as you read along. Or ask her to tell pou the story using the pictures as a guide. Or make up your own story using the	Proteend your child's visified animals are having the conversation in the book. No bunnies? No problem. Use the stuffed animals or other toys in the noam. It might go something like:
A little loanny is bored with life at torne. He decides to nan away. Mother Burny has a plan to bring him home.	book as a guide. For instance: if you are a fult, then I will become a (fill in the blank).	Taule not a burny! What kind of animal are you? Are you a fish? Are you a bird? A flower? Are you a child?
	is learned from all of this reading and o you. You shared a book and had a core	
Visit our Family Resource Library for more activities that help develop literacy.	💓 🏫 😇 🛬 better beginnings	See the next page for more great books and learning activities.

### **Bring Books to Life**

Reading is a great way to open the doors to learning and adventure. By talking about the book, reading it in funny voices, and acting it out later, you'll help the children in your care associate reading with fun. Learn more by checking out this resource.

**View Resource** 

**View Resource** 

View Resource

# 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.

LEARNING IS FUN!



#### 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!



Help us congratulate your colleagues on hitting that next star level! Do you want to join this list? Visit the <u>Provider Tools</u> 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, Litle 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



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





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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