

November 2021



The holiday season is here! Moments that will become happy memories are on the horizon. For children, many of their happy memories will be around play.

We've said it before and we'll say it again. **Play** is an important part of learning for young children. It may look chaotic. However, a strong foundation is being laid for a child's social, emotional, and intellectual development when they play. Children learn through play!

Children don't know that, though. They're just having fun. That's what I hope you get to do, too. I hope you get to create happy memories with your children that will last a lifetime.

Commemorate your holiday season by making no-cook, no-bake playdough ornaments and decorations. All you need is salt, flour and water. See **Playdough Power** for powerful fun. Plus, your kids get a lesson in math and don't even know it.

There are dozens of resources on our website with more fun ideas and activities. Check out the **Play is Learning** section of our **Family Resource Library** for those resources. Toys are part of play, too. Check out this resource on **choosing the right toy**.

December is all about **math**. Keep reading for ways to incorporate play and math.

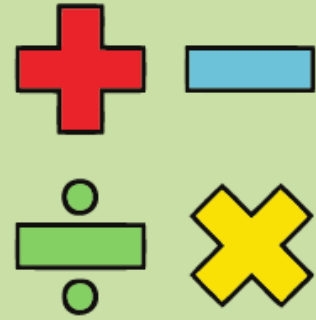
Happy Holidays!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelli Hilburn".

Kelli Hilburn

BETTER BEGINNINGS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR
DIVISION OF CHILD CARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

MATH RESOURCES



Here are great resources to help you make **math** fun for your young children. You can use recyclables as items for these resources, to make your own games, or a **playground**.

You can find more resources on a variety of topics in our **Family Resource Library**.

Sorting Sacks and Similar Stuff



Sorting shapes and colors helps children learn to organize by "same" and "different." Organizing is a skill that is basic to learning math. It also helps children understand how objects in their own world relate to each other.

Sorting can be a fun activity to do together. Use socks, baskets or boxes with colorful shapes to indicate how to sort.

Your child learns about colors as you take turns putting "the blue toys in the sack with the blue circle" using the words helps your child learn while you play.

Play a game of tossing blocks into baskets or other containers.

When you share sorting activities, your child learns:

- colors, numbers and shapes
- new words while you sort toys and talk about them
- hand-eye coordination
- fine motor skills
- problem solving when deciding which container to use

By sharing activities with your child, you show how important he or she is to you. You share a conversation. You are building your relationship.



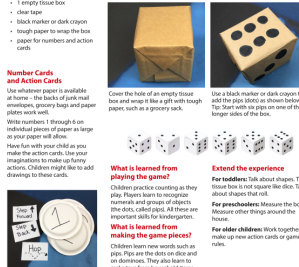
Click here to visit our Resource Library. You'll find activities and tips to help you prepare your child for life.
ARBetterBeginnings.com • 1-501-682-8590

Sorting shapes and colors helps children learn to organize. Organization is a skill that is basic to learning math. This resources shows how you can help develop this skill at home.

Sorting Sacks & Similar
Stuff

Simon Says ROLL

How to Make Your Big Die Simon Says Game



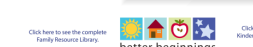
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The game *Simon Says* goes big with this easy-to-make learning game the whole family can enjoy. These oversized game pieces add to the drama and fun of the game.

Simon Says ROLL

Play the Way to Math Skills

Many of the math skills your child needs for kindergarten develop naturally through talking and playing. Children learn best through experience. They remember best when it's fun. Try these activities to give meaning to numbers, practice writing numbers and counting.



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Play the Way to Math
Skills

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT



The Arkansas Fatherhood and Family Initiative is looking for fathers willing to share what they enjoy about being a father. If you are willing to share or know someone who is, contact **Cecil McDonald**, president of the Initiative, or **Jackie Govan**, Collaboration Director for the Arkansas Head Start - State Collaboration Office.

The **Arkansas Fatherhood and Family Initiative**: Fathers Engaged and Empowered to Learn works to strengthen family foundations and reverse the absentee fatherhood trend. It does this by helping fathers to understand the challenges of parenting and increase skills in building and maintaining healthy family relationships.

NOMINATIONS OPEN



Arkansas Outstanding Early Childhood Professional

The Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education is looking for the next Arkansas Outstanding Early Childhood Professional. This award honors the significant contributions a professional makes to the early childhood and education field.

To qualify, nominees must:

- Meet minimum licensing requirements for child care staff
- Be employed by a licensed provider in good standing
- Have taught an early childhood classroom for at least three years
- Plan to remain in early childhood for the 2022-2023 fiscal year
- Be willing and able to serve as an early childhood ambassador

The winning professional will serve on committees, represent early childhood educators in the media as needed and be featured on media and social media outlets.

The nomination packet can be found on the Better Beginnings [website](#).

The deadline to nominate someone is **January 21, 2022**.

[Click here for the nomination packet.](#)

PANDEMIC GUIDELINES

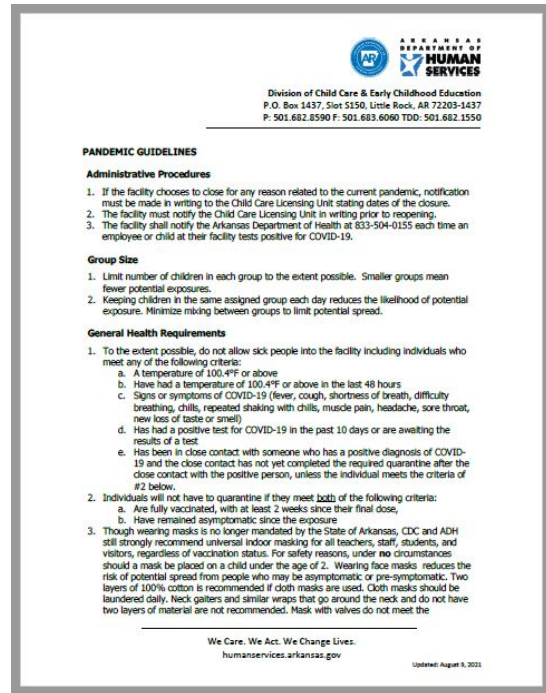


Just a quick reminder that you can always find the most updated **Pandemic Guidelines** from Arkansas DHS on our website.

Find the **Trending tab** and then click the **COVID Advice and Resources for Families** button.

Or, **click here** to download the PDF or screenshot the document and save to your phone for quick access!

As COVID-19 circumstances change daily, Arkansas DHS and the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education will **monitor and adjust these guidelines as needed.**



ARKANSAS DHS PANDEMIC GUIDELINES FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

WHAT IS BETTER BEGINNINGS?

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUT

OR, check us out on **social media.**



Better Beginnings | DCCECE, Attn: Better Beginnings, PO Box 1437, Slot S150, Little Rock, AR 72203-1437