



Literacy



Math



Science

Provider Buzz | October 2022



**better beginnings**

EVERY CHILD DESERVES OUR BEST



**A NOTE FROM  
KELLI HILBURN**

**PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR**

Play is learning, and how children best learn.

I know, I know. You already know that, but how do you put it into practice? Play doesn't just happen when children are in the dramatic play center or when they're on the playground. It can be orchestrated with age-appropriate activities and experiments that teach children math, science, or language concepts. And it doesn't have to be complicated. For example, playing in the [mud](#) encourages children to use their

imagination and cultivates their creativity.

Find resources and activities that encourage play from the [Play is Learning](#) section of the [Better Beginnings website](#). Incorporate these activities into your classroom fun and watch children [reach for the stars!](#)

Arkansas got some great news in September. We were named by WalletHub as having the best early education system in the U.S., and it's all because of you! Keep reading to see DCCECE Director Tonya Williams' [interview](#) on this amazing accomplishment.

You know what else is fun? Science! Keep reading for [scientific activities](#) that are perfect for the incoming cooler weather and Halloween season. We're also highlighting our curriculum supplements and provider tools for those interested in increasing their Better Beginnings [star level](#).

Don't forget to come see us at the Arkansas Early Childhood Association [conference](#) later this month. We're excited to see you!

As always, thank you for your hard work and dedication to the children and families you serve. You are the workforce behind the workforce.



**Kelli Hilburn**

BETTER BEGINNINGS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

DIVISION OF CHILD CARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



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





PLAY,  
LEARN,  
EXPLORE

# LEARNING RESOURCES



## Sticks & Stones Creativity

Playing outside helps children develop a love for nature. When they love nature, they become caretakers of it. Use this resource as a guide for encouraging exploration.

[View Resource](#)



## States of Matter

Matter is anything that has weight and takes up space. The activities in this resource are perfect for children three and older to learn this concept through play!

[View Resource](#)



## Sensory Play

Play is critical to a child's development. Through play, they develop new skills and explore their imagination. Sensory play allows them to explore new textures through feel and taste safely.

[View Resource](#)





LEARNING  
IS FUN!

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



## Arkansas is the Best!

Arkansas was named the state in the U.S. with the best early education system, and it's because of you! Your hard work to ensure children have access to high-quality child care is seen and appreciated.

DCCECE Director, **Tonya Williams**, was recently interviewed about this. Read what she had to say about this amazing accomplishment.

[Read more!](#)

## Provider Calls

“Zoom” with representatives from the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood to discuss issues and updates related to child care. You can now find the schedule for these calls and the link to join the Zoom calls on the Better Beginnings website.

[Learn more](#)

## Curriculum & Supplements

Better Beginnings offers research-based, age appropriate curriculum and supplements to all providers. It's free to use in your classroom and gives children a solid foundation from which they can continue to learn. Find the curriculum and the supplements on our website.

[View Curriculum](#)

## Provider Tools

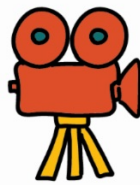
Are you ready to reach for the stars by increasing your star level? Then start here with these Provider Tools from Better Beginnings. You'll find everything you need here to help you take the next step to ensuring your center is providing children with high-quality care.

[Access the Tools](#)



[WATCH NOW](#) 





# CAN WE INTERVIEW YOU?

LEARN MORE ↘



Help us spread the word about the importance of being a Better Beginnings provider!

We want to interview you at the [Arkansas Early Childhood Association Conference](#) October 12-15, 2022, in Little Rock.

Topics include:

- 3-Star Provider Requirements
- 3-Star Provider Importance
- Why should others level-up or become a provider?
- Misconceptions about the Better Beginnings process
- Better Beginnings Trainings
- ARPA Grants

Sign Up!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### *Powerful Conversations with Fathers*

Powerful Conversations with Fathers will host the last online webinar Monday, October 10 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. with Marvin Benton, a firefighter and father of three

daughters. He will share his story as a father and discuss how he raised his daughters in spite of the adversity he encountered.

Share this webinar with your families, so they can participate, too.

Register  
Today

### *Arkansas Early Childhood Association Conference*

Come see us at the [Arkansas Early Childhood Association Conference](#) October 12-15, 2022, in Little Rock. We hope to see more of your "Be-YOU-tiful" faces and to hear from people like keynote speaker Coy Bowles from the Zac Brown Band.

Learn  
More



BETTER BEGINNINGS  
**STAR  
APPROVALS**

QUALITY  
CARE!

Better Beginnings is focused on making **quality child care more accessible to families of young children across Arkansas**. More high-quality access means more kids are better prepared for kindergarten. To meet this objective, Better Beginnings encourages providers to improve their facility's Star Ratings. Below are the most recent facilities to advance their quality standards.





## THREE STAR PROVIDERS

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

- Little Scholars Academy Of Maumelle West Campus, Maumelle
- Leap Forward CDC 2, North Little Rock
- Kid to Kid 1 Child Development, Jacksonville
- Little Christian Scholars Academy of Conway, Conway
- ABC Children's Academy & Developmental Ctr, Clarksville
- Childcare Network #332, Faulkner
- DoodleBugs Day Care, Huntsville
- Quality Child Care, Conway



## TWO STAR PROVIDERS

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

- The Kids Studio, Rogers
- Mommy's In-Home Daycare, Jonesboro
- Little Ones Childcare, Heber Spring
- Trinity Prep Day School, Farmington
- Lake Nixon Outdoor Preschool, Little Rock
- YMCA Day Camp, Hot Springs
- The Children Center, Mabelvale
- Precious Moments Learning Center, LLC, Ward
- Kids & Company Child Development Center, LLC, Cabot
- Lil Lions Daycare LLC, Bismarck
- YMCA Summer Camp, Hot Springs
- Infiniti Child Care, Bentonville
- Ida's Daycare, Blytheville
- Primrose Path Daycare, Waldron
- Stinson Chapel Day Care Center, Sherwood
- Nana's Care Daycare, Little Rock
- Kids Child Care II, West Memphis
- Abundant Blessings Christian Childcare, Conway
- Keta's Childcare & Developmental Center, Pine Bluff
- Childcare Network #269, Maumelle
- Kids World Academy, Forest City
- From Caterpillars to Butterflies, Farmington
- Legacy School, Hot Springs
- Jumpstart Learning Center, Hope
- Grandma's House & Learning Center, Little Rock
- Tender Loving Care, Forrest City
- Baseline Bilingual School, Little Rock
- Baseline Bilingual School, Little Rock
- FUMC OST Cornerstone Kids, Searcy
- The Growing Tree Academy, Magnolia
- Jamari & Jazz Kid Connection, North Little Rock
- A Smart Start Academy, Fort Smith
- Little Hands with Big Imaginations, Paragould
- Childcare Network #191, Little Rock
- Elite Learning Academy, Fort Smith



- Youngling Kid Zone, Little Rock
- Kiddie Academy, Little Rock
- The Goddard School, Little Rock
- Shiloh Montessori Preschool, Springdale
- Kid's Academy, Maumelle
- The Growing Tree Early Learning Center Preschool, Little Rock
- The Growing Tree Early Learning Center, Inc, Little Rock
- Kid's Academy, Bryant
- Kid's Academy, North Little Rock
- Primrose Path Preschool, Waldron
- Kid's Academy, Little Rock
- Cornerstone Child Center, Malvern
- Wonderland Daycare, Jonesboro
- Kids R Us Daycare, West Memphis
- Yo Yo's Loving Hands Childcare and Preschool, Booneville



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

- Bright Steps Academy, Charleston
- The Giving Tree Pre-K Learning Center, Bentonville
- Oak Grove Montessori School, Springdale
- Smart Start Academy, Conway

Congratulations to these providers! Thank you for everything you do to keep Arkansas children safe, nourished and well. If you are interested in becoming a Better Beginnings provider or moving up in star ratings, click the button below!

**Provider Star  
Ratings**

## Level Up Resource

Looking to increase your star level or to start your journey to become a Better Beginnings provider? Check out the [Provider Tools](#) section of our website to find the information you need to start your journey.

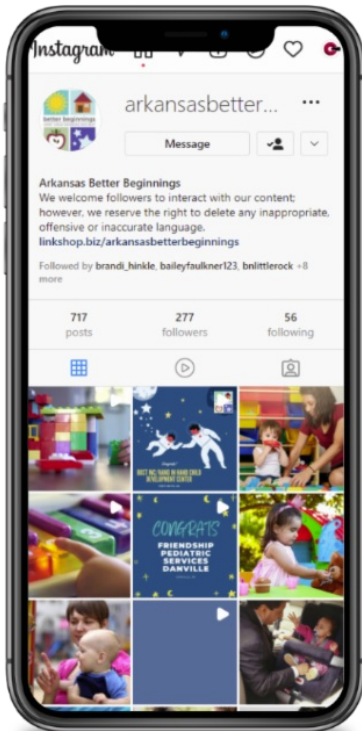
**Visit our  
Website**

# 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's tiered quality rating 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 Human Services Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education.



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