



Literacy



Math



Science

Provider Buzz | October 2023



A NOTE FROM KELLI HILBURN

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Curiosity is a powerful mindset, especially in young children. The more curious they are, the more they discover. The more they discover, the more they learn. You play a key role in cultivating and answering children's curiosity, laying a strong foundation from which they will grow and find success. We call this "[Reaching for the Stars](#)."

You can cultivate discovery and curiosity in the children around you using the [science](#) resources included in this edition of *The Buzz* or the free [curriculum](#) located on the Better Beginnings [website](#). The activities in these resources will make learning fun. Keep reading to find events where you can discover and learn new things that will enhance the quality of your facility.

This is always a busy but exciting time of the school year. I encourage you to slow down and take the time to bring discovery and fun into your life and into the lives of the children you interact with every day.

Until next time,

Kelli Hilburn

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



Teaching children about the weather is like opening up a treasure chest of natural wonders. Watch the video below to see how it's done. Then duplicate this fun activity in your classroom for ultimate fun!



PLAY,
LEARN,
EXPLORE

LEARNING RESOURCES



Sticks & Stones Creativity

Cooler days bring opportunities for outdoor adventures. Make the outside your classroom with this resource and foster in your students a love for the natural world today, so they may come to care for it tomorrow.

[View Resource](#)


Sensory Play

Want to spark curiosity and the fun of discovery in young learners? Bring them the magic of taste and touch with taste-safe materials. Find a list of suggested materials in this resource.

[View Resource](#)


Rainstorm in a Jar

This activity is sure to get little minds churning with discovery as the mystery of how rain works is unlocked for the children in your classroom. Their eyes are sure to light up with discovery.

[View Resource](#)



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



AR Resource Connections

Check out AR Resources Connections' library of resources that provide practical tools, handbooks and guidance on topics such as budgeting, human resources and more for providers.

[Learn More](#)



Curriculum & Supplements

Looking for some additional curriculum pieces for your classroom? Check out the free supplements on the Better Beginnings website for research-based, developmentally appropriate materials that provide creative learning opportunities for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

[View Curriculum](#)



AECA Conference

Come see us in Little Rock October 12-14, 2023 at the 61st Annual Arkansas Early Childhood Association Conference! We're excited to not only see you but to learn more about how we can help children learn through play.

[Register](#)

Trunk or Treat Literacy Walk

Join the Pine Bluff Early Childhood Association for a fun Halloween-themed event on Monday, October 30 in Pine Bluff – the Trunk or Treat Literacy Walk. Contact [Jacqueline Riley](#) to RSVP.

[Learn More](#)

Super Saturday - Save the Date!

Join our friends at A-State Childhood Services for a Saturday of fun and learning in

[Learn More](#)



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.



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

- Lil Hawks Preschool Center, Center Ridge



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

- ABC Children's Academy and Developmental Center, Dover
- Boone Park Elementary Pre-K Program, North Little Rock
- Lamar Elementary School, Lamar



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

- ABC Children's Academy Dover Campus 3, Dover
- Calico Rock Head Start, Calico Rock
- Clarksville ARVAC Head Start, Clarksville
- Friendship Pediatric Services, Pottsville
- Harp Pre-K, Springdale
- Highland Head Start, Highland
- Hope Public School ABC Pre-K, Hope
- Kareer Kids CDC, Cabot
- Kindergrove, Rogers
- Midland Tiny Tots Too, Pleasant Plains
- Ozark Opportunities Inc Early Head Start, Mountain Home
- PCSSD Cato Elementary, Sherwood
- Russellville ARVAC Head Start, Russellville
- Springdale Head Start, Springdale
- Walker's Learning Academy, Wynne
- Winston's Tender Care, Pine Bluff

THREE STAR PROVIDERS

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

- Early Years Place Moore, Searcy
- First Step, Malvern
- First Step of Glenwood, Glenwood
- The After School Program at Young Elementary, Springdale
- The After School Program at JB Hunt Elementary, Springdale
- Springdale Early Learning Academy West, Springdale
- Caterpillar Clubhouse of Siloam Springs, Siloam Springs
- Bright Beginnings, Prescott
- Lonoke First United Methodist Church Child Care Center, Lonoke
- Countryview Preschool LLC, Marion
- First United Methodist Church, Rogers

TWO STAR PROVIDERS

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

- Casa Castillo - Terra, Bentonville
- Pugs and Kisses, Fayetteville

ONE STAR PROVIDERS

There are no new **1-star** Better Beginnings providers.

Star Level Kit

Congratulations on reaching that next star level! Share your accomplishment with your client families and community with the resources located in the [Star Level Kit](#) on the Better Beginnings website.

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' 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 Education and Office of Early Childhood.



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