



Literacy



Math



Science

Family Buzz | October 2024



better beginnings

EVERY CHILD DESERVES OUR BEST



A NOTE FROM KELLI HILBURN

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

There is great joy to be found in almost every moment when children are having fun. October begins a season of fun for families, with special activities that will help you bond with your child. For many families, this will be a season of firsts – first Halloween costume, first pumpkin patch visit, first s'more. Savor those moments, as they are precious and inspire awe.

Another way you can create wonder this Fall is with the [science](#) activities included below! Science is magical to a learning brain. As you read, you'll also see information about star-rated [quality](#), this month's [kindergarten readiness](#) tip, and trick-or-treat safety [tips](#). All of this will have your child excelling and [reaching for the stars](#).

Fall is a great time of year to create memories that will last a lifetime. May it be full of smiles, joy, and love.

Until next time,

Kelli Hilburn

Kelli Hilburn
BETTER BEGINNINGS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



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



VIDEO
CORNER

WATCH NOW 

Every moment your child plays, they learn something about the world around them. Falling blocks? That's gravity in action! Watch the video below then check out our [Play is Learning](#) section to see the importance of play in your child's learning journey.



LEARNING RESOURCES

PLAY, LEARN, EXPLORE

The banner features a large yellow background. On the left, a circular inset shows a young child with curly hair reading a book. Below this inset is a smaller orange circle containing the text "PLAY, LEARN, EXPLORE". To the right of the banner, the words "LEARNING RESOURCES" are written in large, bold, white capital letters. Below the banner, there are two smaller circular images: the first shows two children playing with colorful blocks, and the second shows a child playing with a colorful toy.

Rainstorm in a Jar

Rainy days can be boring for young children. Entertain them with this easy, inexpensive experiment. Soon they'll be making it rain!

INGREDIENTS:
 1/2 cup white shaving cream
 Food coloring
 Water

TOOLS:
 Clear jar or glass container
 1/4 cup food coloring
 1/4 cup water
 1/4 cup white shaving cream

ADULT SUPERVISION IS ESSENTIAL!

1. Prepare your colors. Add several drops of food coloring to about an ounce of water in a container. Use one color at a time. There's no need to mix colors. It's more fun to watch them mix when they come out of the cloud.
2. Fill your glass or jar nearly to the top with tap water.
3. Make a giant, big rain cloud of shaving cream on top of the water.
4. Drop the diluted food coloring onto your cloud and watch the separation of colors.

Note: Color may take a minute or more to seep through your cloud. Be patient!

THE SCIENCE OF RAIN
 On a ground level, warm air holds water that we can't see. Clouds are formed when warm air rises with tiny particles like dust and tiny water droplets. The air cools and the water droplets become heavier and get bigger. When the droplets become heavy enough, they fall as rain.

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Play, Explore, Learn Outdoors

Playing with your children outdoors is not only fun, it's healthy for both children and parents. Check out these simple ways to connect with your children while outside and use how many additional ways you can think of to help your child learn from the great outdoors.

- Have a picnic (or lunch or dinner or snack) in your backyard or in the park.
- Collect leaves, acorns, pinecones or pine cones. Compare the items in your collection. Do they all look alike? What differences do you see?
- Look for different types of trees near your home. Find out the names of the trees.
- Read a book about "trees" and watch them grow.
- Take a flower walk together.
- Let an owl bark in the grass and watch the clouds. Use a pencil and paper to draw the cloud shapes you see.
- On a rainy day, give your nose a good wash and watch the rain. Use a washcloth to gently wash your face. Splash in puddles.

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Sticks and Stones Creativity

Use your imagination to create a nature scene with sticks and stones. You can use anything you find in your yard or in the park.

There is a world of natural resources outdoors. Playing with these elements - from the woods, park or your own backyard - helps children develop a love of nature. When children explore the beauty of nature, they become confident.

We can't always take it to the woods. In appropriate weather, show your children to the park or gently. The worst time to bring home a few small projects.

Sort out the different elements and talk about what they are.

- What are their names?
- What are they made of?
- Where did they come from?
- Do they grow on trees?
- Do they come from the water, a creek or pond?
- Do they need water? Light? Soil? Darkness?

Parents may have to do a little research, but that's a bonus activity to share.

Go outside and play!

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Rainstorm in a Jar

Make rainy days fun and educational with this resource! With only three ingredients you can show your child how to make it rain.

[View Resource](#)

Play, Explore, Learn Outdoors

Exploration is fun and beneficial to everyone as it cultivates your child's natural curiosity and promotes physical activity. Check out this resource for ideas.

[View Resource](#)

Sticks & Stones Creativity

The world around us is full of natural resources. Creating nature scenes with these resources can help your child develop a love of nature. Download this resource for a guide to make this happen.

[View Resource](#)



LEARNING IS FUN!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Star Rated Quality

The Better Beginnings star levels are markers of

quality you can look to when deciding what early care and education facility is best for your child. Check out our star-rated quality page to learn more about what is required for providers to reach each level.

[Learn More](#)



Kindergarten Readiness Tip

Physical activity is important for a child's development and getting them ready for kindergarten. While your child is having fun, they're developing the skills they need to keep their balance, throw and catch a ball, and more. You will find a full list of activities on the Getting Ready for Kindergarten Calendar that you can do with your child this month, including a list of toys, that will encourage them to move.

[View Calendar](#)



Healthy Media for Young Children

Zoom, October 24, 11:30 a.m. - 1 pm

Want to learn how to use media to positively impact your child? This class is for you! You'll also see how media affects your child's health and development and learn how to identify high-quality media experiences for young children.

[Register](#)

Family Café: For the Love of Reading

Reading to your child does more than create a strong bond between you. It also helps them to develop their language and literacy skills! Learn more strategies for incorporating language through reading and everyday conversations through this class.

Register



HEALTH AND SAFETY



Halloween Trick-or-Treat Safety Tips

Trick-or-treating is a standard Halloween activity but safety is a priority. Here are three tips to do ahead of time that can help ease your mind:

- **Keep your child visible:** You're going to be walking a lot in neighborhoods with cars. Make sure your child can be seen by drivers by putting them in bright-colored costumes or a bright safety vest.
- **Safe Costumes:** Speaking of costumes, make sure your child's costume fits well to avoid any tripping.
- **Set Some Rules:** Make sure your child knows how and when to cross the road and to never cut across someone's yard. Also, make sure they know to never go into someone's home.
- **Be Present:** By being present, you enjoy the time with your child and are better able to actively supervise them.

Kelli Hilburn, Better Beginnings Program Administrator, provided more safety tips on *Arkansas Style*.

Watch Now

WHAT IS BETTER BEGINNINGS?



Better Beginnings means better opportunities. Investing in quality 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' 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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