

better
beginnings



for Providers
buzz

Department of Human Services Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education

APRIL 2021



PROVIDERS,

March is behind us and April showers have come and gone. Spring, we will miss you, but **Summer...hurry up!**

After all, summertime is our true love. **Swimming. Camping. Grilling and chilling!** It's just a more relaxed time of the year, am I right?

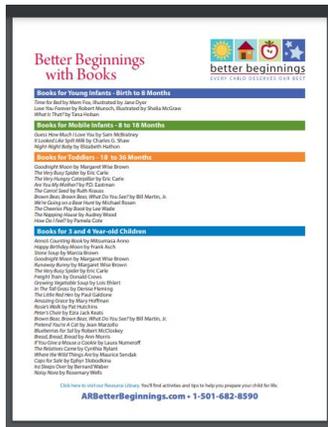
Sure, our routines change and it can become a bit hectic. **But this is an exciting time for your kids. Summer learning can be full of many memories!**

Speaking of memories, and since May is all about **literacy**, we've got a Mother's Day project for you that is sure to win the prize for best Mother's Day gift ever! **(Or at least Mom will think so).**

Make a **Mother's Day Memory Book**. Grab a couple of sheets of computer paper and a few sheets of notebook paper. Bind them together with some string and create some themed pages **using our resources below**.

Remind families that we use our literacy skills every day. So, as they **read, write** and **pretend** their way through the project, their child is **learning new words, developing communication skills**, and **expanding his imagination**--all skills he will use forever.

Better Beginnings with Books



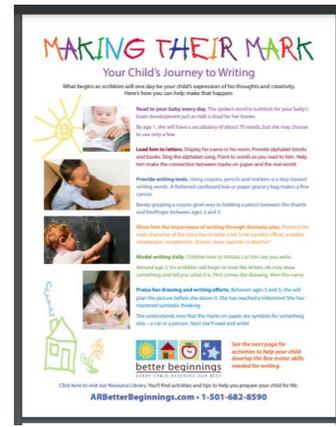
Make the first page a reading challenge activity. **Encourage** families to set a reading goal for the year with a simple "I will read ___ books this year" written at the bottom. Insert our **Better Beginnings with Books** list next. Some will read 2 and some will read 20. The goal is to remind them to **read every day**.

Bring Books to Life



Next, try our **Bring Books to Life** activity. Ask families to choose a book from their list and **act it out** with their child! Remind them that engaging their child's imagination inspires him to think creatively. **Costumes, props and masks...OH MY!** The things he will learn by just **playing pretend!**

Making Their Mark



Include this **Making Their Mark** resource next. It provides great activities which help a child with **writing and fine motor skills**. This makes learning how to write her name or address fun! Not writing letters yet? That's okay! Drawing **shapes and doodles** are great for her **early brain development** too.

Date the first page May 9, 2021 for **Mother's Day** and the last page May 8, 2022, next year's **Mother's Day**. This gives them a place to hold a year of learning and memories. They will love seeing their child's literacy progress.

There is no greater gift for a parent than **watching their child learn**. Find more **literacy resources** in our **Family Resource Library**.

All the best,

Dawn Jeffrey

Dawn Jeffrey M.S.E.

Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education
Program Manager for Better Beginnings



National Child Care Provider Day is coming up! It's next month, **May 7.**

We can't wait to celebrate you. Arkansas providers are so **passionate** about providing our kids with the highest **quality** care possible. You **teach, interact and inspire.** Most of all, you **form relationships** with every child you encounter.

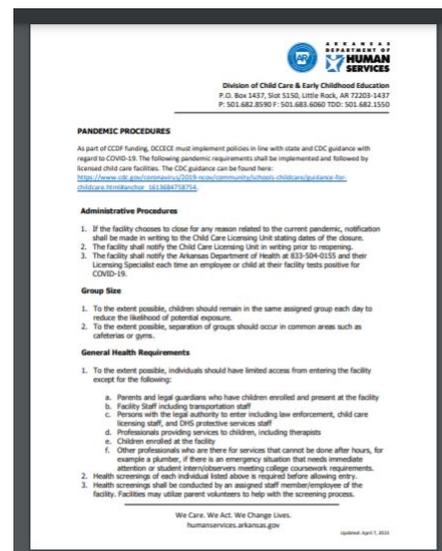
You make a difference, and for that we are forever grateful.

What does being a child care provider in Arkansas mean to you? Seriously, **if you could describe your job in one word, what would it be?**

We want to know! **Reply to this email with your word,** or send it to us in a direct message on **Facebook, Instagram** or **Twitter.**



The Arkansas Department of Human Services' **Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education** keeps the health and well-being of your client families and staff a top priority. To ensure safety, licensed child care facilities will operate by the PANDEMIC PROCEDURES FOUND HERE. These procedures are written to follow state and CDC guidance. Find the CDC Guidance here.



FIND MORE COVID ADVICE AND RESOURCES HERE

LITERACY CURRICULUM



Remember, we use our literacy skills every day, in almost everything we do. **The earlier we start working on these with our kids the better.** The good news? **It's simple!** Since we use our literacy skills so often, there are many teaching opportunities throughout a normal day. From all skills, to all ages, **literacy is everywhere.**

Check out the following curriculum.

CREATIVE ADVENTURES WITH LITERATURE

Creative Adventures with Literature (CAL), is a collection of curriculum guides that bring reading and art together. Your children will love **listening to these stories and seeing all of the illustrations.** Get ready to watch their imaginations come to life and enjoy!



FIND CREATIVE ADVENTURES WITH LITERATURE CURRICULUM HERE



Story-A-Month is a collection of **storytelling patterns and learning activities** for thirty-seven favorite children's books, plus patterns for twelve **Mother Goose Rhymes** and activities.

FIND STORY-A-MONTH CURRICULUM HERE

BOOKS AND MOVEMENT: A MAGICAL MIX

Books and Movement: A Magical Mix (B.A.M.M.M.!) is a series of activities that bring **books and movement** together. Every lesson starts with a children's storybook and encourages your kids to use movement to tell their interpretation of the story. This is a fun one! They will get so creative!



FIND B.A.M.M.M.! CURRICULUM HERE



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.

The following program is now a **2-star Better Beginnings provider**:

- **LITTLE ROCK** - Kiddie Kollege
- **HARRISON** - ABC Preschool
- **NASHVILLE** - Rainbow Learning Center

The following program is now a **3-star Better Beginnings provider**:

- **VAN BUREN** - Van Buren Part Day HS

If you are a Better Beginnings provider and are interested in moving up in star ranking, click [here](#).

CHECK OUT OUR
LATEST ARTICLE
IN PEEKABOO



BETTER BEGINNINGS, BETTER OPPORTUNITIES

A Special Note from Dawn Jeffrey



Spring reminds me of growth. Now, it could be the **warmer temperatures, longer days** and **brighter weather**, but when I think of growth, I can't help but be reminded of our **WHY** at Better Beginnings. Our why is simple, **your children**. It is our mission to help them grow in their learning, making sure they are **ready for Kindergarten**.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

WHAT IS BETTER BEGINNINGS?

An illustration of a diverse group of smiling children of various ethnicities and ages, standing together.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUT](#)

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

