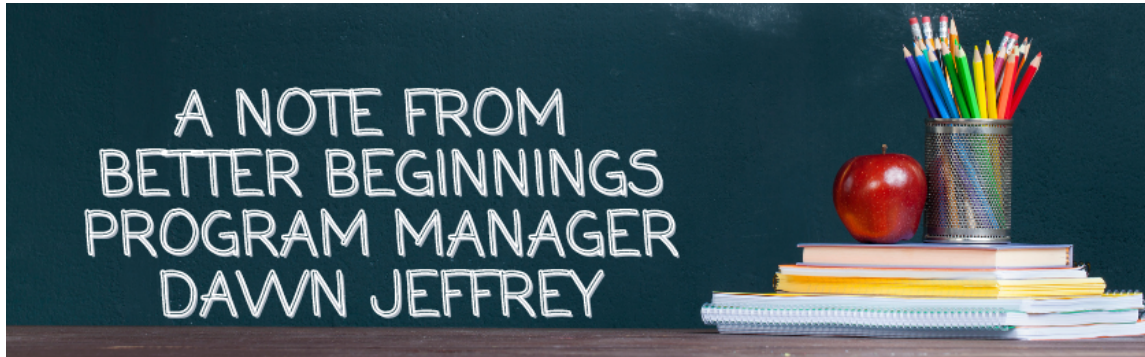




AUGUST 2021



Providers,

The end of summer is always a bummer-- especially when it's this **HOT!**

The good news is, back to school means **fall is just around the corner. Pumpkins, brisk weather and flannels...OH MY!**

As we ease back into our normal school-year routines, we want to remind you that keeping the health and safety of your Arkansas children and their families is our top priority. It's important that you stay mindful of current COVID-19 circumstances and adjust as needed.

We want to thank you for navigating through the many changes and challenges brought on since the onset of COVID-19. You are constantly adjusting and implementing new procedures in your homes and facilities. Your willingness to do this is keeping Arkansas kids safe and healthy!

So, as things change and new policies are put in place, please be patient and remember that **keeping Arkansas kids safe takes teamwork!**

WE CAN DO THIS!

All the best, *Dawn Jeffrey*

Dawn Jeffrey M.S.E.

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

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 of Early Childhood Education will **monitor and adjust these guidelines as needed.**

The screenshot shows the title page of the 'PANDEMIC GUIDELINES' document. At the top right is the Arkansas Department of Human Services logo. Below it is the contact information for the Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education. The document is organized into sections: 'Administrative Procedures', 'Group Size', and 'General Health Requirements'. Each section contains a list of numbered items detailing protocols for facility closures, group management, and health screening criteria. At the bottom, there is a slogan 'We Care. We Act. We Change Lives.' and the website 'humanservices.arkansas.gov'. The document is dated August 9, 2021.

ARKANSAS DHS PANDEMIC GUIDELINES FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

SUMMER SAFETY REMINDERS



APPLY SUNSCREEN

Remind your client families to apply and send sunscreen for outside trips and activities. It must have **UVA & UVB protection and at least 15 SPF to ensure appropriate protection.**



STAY HYDRATED

Always provide **plenty of water breaks during and after outdoor play.**

CHECK THE BACKSEAT

A parked car will warm up 20 degrees from the outside temperature in just ten minutes. **Never leave children in a car, van or bus.**



APPLY BUG SPRAY

Remind parents to look for **ticks** after outdoor activities and trips. Encourage them to apply and/or send an **EPA-registered insect repellent.**

PRACTICE WATER SAFETY

Never let children in your care swim **without an on-duty life-guard or an adult around.**



BETTER BEGINNINGS STAR APPROVALS

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 **3-star Better Beginnings provider**:

LITTLE ROCK--EPISCOPAL COLLEGIATE SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

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

MATH RESOURCES



Help your client-families continue the learning at home by sharing these math **resources** from our **Family Resource Library**.

Let's Make Music!



Box Kettler
Step 1: Measure a ribbon or string.
Step 2: Cut a 4 inch square or circle hole in side.
Step 3: Cut a 4 inch square or circle hole in side.
Step 4: Thread a pencil at each end of the tube under the rubber bands. They make a sound when you shake it.



TP Tube Kazoo
Step 1: Draw a wavy paper tube.
Step 2: Cut a piece of newspaper about an inch longer than the bottom of the tube.
Step 3: Cover one end of the tube with the newspaper and secure it with a rubber band.
Step 4: Blow through the open end and start up the paper-making buzz!

Materials:
- Decorating paper
- Wax paper
- Wrapping paper or paper towel roll
- Rubber bands
- Pipe cleaner
- Paper
- Tape
- Scissors
- String
- Rubber bands
- Pipe cleaner
- Paper
- Tape
- Scissors

Learn more about the importance of play.
[betterbeginnings.org](#)
www.ARBetterBeginnings.com • 1-800-445-3316

Sorting Sacks and Similar Stuff



Sorting shapes and colors helps children learn to organize by "name" and "feature". 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 sacks, baskets or bins with colorful shapes to include how to sort.

Play a game of guessing colors as you take turns pulling "the blue top" in the sack with the blue circle. Using the words helps your child learn why you stop.

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 it is for the child to you. You share a conversation. You are building your relationship. How many do you share will tell!

Learn more tips and fun activities to encourage your child's math skills development.
[betterbeginnings.org](#)
www.ARBetterBeginnings.com • 1-501-682-8590

Talk Math

Introduce your child to math through every day conversation. Here are some ways to talk math while you work and play.

Start at infancy.
Sing songs and repeat phrases that use numbers.
Talk math. Make comparisons such as "big" and "small", "more" and "less", "heavy" and "light" introduce to concepts of volume and mass. "long" and "short" teach measurement.

Play sorting games. Put all the balls in one bucket and the blocks in a box. Learning "name" and "feature" is a math skill.

Do laundry. Children learn about colors and sizes by sorting laundry with you.

Count it out. Count out loud when serving snacks. Make comparisons such as "you have more crackers than I do."

Make cookies. Your child will learn about measurement by counting eggs and cups of flour.
Add and subtract. Count the balls in your yard. Talk about how the number changes when one fish jumps.
Keep time. Use a timer, clock or stopwatch to measure how long the cookies bake.
Measure heights. Use a tape measure or yardstick to compare your child's height to your own. Make a game of measuring other things around the house.

What is your child learning?

- Math concepts
- How to classify objects by shape or color
- How numbers relate to the world
- About order and sequence
- Awareness of measurement and volume
- Understand units of measure
- Recognize value of fractions

Learn more tips and fun activities to encourage your child's math skills development.
[betterbeginnings.org](#)
www.ARBetterBeginnings.com • 1-800-445-3316

Click here to visit our Resource Library. You'll find activities and tips to help you prepare your child for life.

LET'S MAKE MUSIC

SORTING SACKS

TALK MATH

WHAT IS BETTER BEGINNINGS?



VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUT

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



Better Beginnings is Arkansas's 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.



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

[Unsubscribe drogers@comgroup.com](mailto:unsubscribe_drogers@comgroup.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by arbetterbeginnings@gmail.com powered by