



MARCH 2020



A NOTE FROM DAWN JEFFREY:



What a month it has been. It is no doubt the COVID-19 outbreak has disrupted our routine, facing us with many challenges. I want to remind you that [Better Beginnings](#) is dedicated to walking through those challenges with you, connecting you to the resources you need to provide the highest quality child care possible. **No matter what, we are in this together.**

Closures have affected many of you and your client families. With all of the change and uncertainty, **one thing your client families should be sure of is that you are there for them.** So, we encourage you to make it a

priority to communicate with them frequently, whether your center is open or closed.

If your center is closed, consider sharing a new resource weekly to help parents enhance their child's learning at home. Remember, you can find [science](#), [math](#) and [literacy](#) resources in our [Family Resource Library](#). Here are a few tips for communicating with client families:

- stay [calm and confident](#)
- remind them we are a community in this [together](#)
- keep communication open by making yourself [accessible](#)
- [stay aware of latest updates](#) and developments from state officials

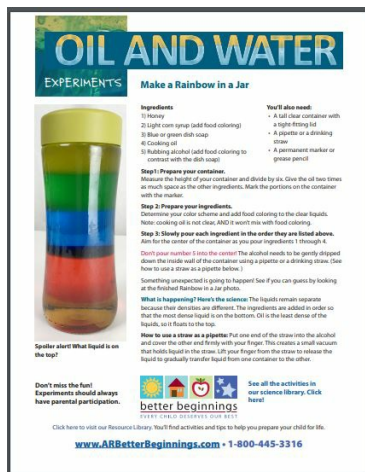
If your center is open, the above tips are still worth remembering as well. You might also consider:

- familiarize yourself with [new client families](#).
- make parents aware of your [germ prevention policies](#) and

- make parents aware of your **plan** for state-mandated closures

Dawn Jeffrey

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The ingredients for this **Rainbow in a Jar** experiment are simple, making it a great resource to share.



This **Making Their Mark** resource focuses on sharpening fine motor skills.

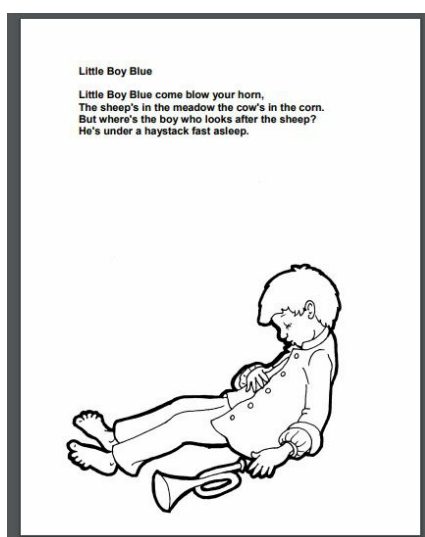


Teach children to count and write numbers with this **Play the Way to Math** resource.

CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHT

Did you know April is **Autism Awareness month**? Remind your client families to **Light It Up Blue** all month. Wear blue. Create with blue. Cook blue food. Play with blue. The options are endless! Here is a great tool to share or use in your classroom next month!

Story-A-Month Curriculum | Little Boy Blue



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.

THANK YOU | BETTER BEGINNINGS QUALITY COMMUNITY

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 **1-star** Better Beginnings provider:

- **RECTOR** - Rector ABC

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

TALKING ABOUT COVID-19 APPROPRIATELY AND CALMLY

Check out these tips from the CDC.



Remain calm and confident. Remember, children will pick up on and react to fear.



Stay approachable. Remind them you WANT to answer their questions.



Avoid wording that blames others, leading to stigma.



Unplug. Monitor screen time.



Only discuss the facts.



Encourage daily habits like washing hands to prevent germs.

[FIND THE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

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.

