



Literacy



Math



Science

Provider Buzz | September 2023



A NOTE FROM KELLI HILBURN

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Fall is on its way! I don't know about you but I'm ready for cooler days that are perfect for [outdoor play](#). We know outdoor play is important to children's physical, social, and brain development. While playing outside, children use their energy and learn important social and problem-solving skills that will carry into adulthood. So, encourage children to play outdoors as often as possible so they will [reach for the stars!](#)

Children also learn basic but important math concepts through play. Use the [math](#) resources, included in this month's edition of *The Buzz*, to teach children counting and sorting. These concepts build a solid foundation for lifelong learning.

Continue reading for more insights into how to help children in your care learn through [play](#). There are also [tools](#) on our website you can use to obtain the next star level, information on upcoming events where you can talk with the Better Beginnings team, and news about the latest star approvals.

The new school year has started off great! Let's keep the momentum going and provide children with the caring environments they need to grow, play, and learn.

Until next time,

Kelli Hilburn
BETTER BEGINNINGS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR
DIVISION OF CHILD CARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



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



VIDEO CORNER

WATCH NOW

This simple activity does more than give children musical instruments. It teaches them important math concepts like measurement. So, what are you waiting for, Maestro? Pick up your baton and find out how you can conduct your little musicians through this activity by watching the video below.



LEARNING RESOURCES

PLAY, LEARN, EXPLORE



Simon Says Roll

Make counting fun with the activities featured in this resource. While having fun, children will learn a basic math concept that will prepare them for success in kindergarten and beyond.



Let's Make Music

With this activity as your guide, help children build instruments using materials found at home. They'll have as much fun creating the instruments as they will playing them.



Sorting Sacks & Similar Stuff

Sorting and organizing like items into categories is a vital math concept for children to learn. Use this resource to make learning this concept fun.



LEARNING
IS FUN!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



How Children Learn

Young children learn differently than school-age children. Learning is best done at an early age through play, especially when it's child-directed. Learn how to engage your children in this way on the Better Beginnings website by clicking on the link below.

[Learn More](#)

Provider Tools

Are you ready to reach for the next star level but don't know where to start? Our provider tools can help. You'll find everything you need to start the journey to your next step in quality. Follow the link below to get started.

[Access the Tools](#)

Provider Call

Zoom with the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education TODAY, September 5, at noon during the monthly Informational Provider Call. Get the latest updates and your questions answered by those in the know. Find more information, including the link to join, on the Better Beginnings website.

[Get the Link](#)

Arkansas Early Childhood Association Conference

Come see us at the 61st Arkansas Early Childhood Association Conference on October 11-14, 2023! We'll have some fun goodies, resources to take home, and you'll have the opportunity to chat with the Better Beginnings team. Register today by clicking the link below!

Super Saturday Is Back!

Join our friends from A-State Childhood Services on September 23, 2023 at the first Super Summer of the new school year in Clarksville! You'll enjoy a full day of fun and earn professional development hours for attending. Register today!

Register

4th Annual STEAM Conference – September

Join us and our friends from [Child Care Aware of West Central Arkansas](#) and Don Monopoli from [The Learning Station](#) at the 4th Annual Early Childhood STEAM Conference Saturday, September 30, in Bismarck. Learn how to incorporate STEAM learning principles into your classroom activities.

Learn More



BETTER BEGINNINGS

STAR APPROVALS

QUALITY CARE!



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:

- Jean Tyson Child Development Study Center, Fayetteville



The following program is now a **5-star** Better Beginnings provider:

- The Pre-K at Leverett, Fayetteville



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

- ABC Children's Academy of Dardanelle, Dardanelle
- Bill & Carolyn Craft Head Start, Harrisburg
- Community Services Office Inc. Head Start Center South West Plaza, Hot

- Springs
- Cook Elementary Preschool, Fort Smith
- CSO Head Start Center - Blake Street, Pine Bluff
- CSO Head Start Center - David Vaughn, Pine Bluff
- Fairview Head Start/ Early Head Start Center, El Dorado
- Hector ARVAC Head Start, Hector
- King Elementary Preschool, Van Buren
- Little Bitty City Enrichment Center De Queen, De Queen



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

- CSO Early Head Start Center - Leon R. Massey, Hot Springs
- Nika's Playroom, Vilonia
- Keiser Head Start Center, Keiser
- Day Camp Learning Center, Lonoke
- Wee Care Child Development, Dumas
- Sylvan Hills Learning Center, Sherwood
- AEL Geraldine Anderson Center, Jonesboro



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

- ArCare Center for Education, Searcy
- The Climbing Ladder Daycare, Alma
- Abundant Love Childcare Center LLC, Jonesboro



The following programs are now **1-star** Better Beginnings providers:

- St. Catherine of Siena Child Care, Barling
- We Are The Future Daycare, Camden

Level Up Resource

Looking to increase your star level? Check out our [Provider Tools](#) to get started!

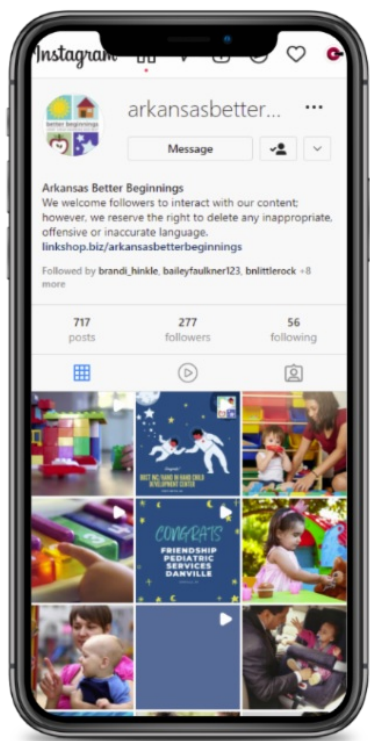
Visit our Website



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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