



**A NOTE FROM  
KELLI HILBURN**  
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

We thoroughly enjoyed our time at the A-State Childhood Services conference this week Exploring the World of Childhood. It was great to see, spend time, and learn with those in attendance about the wonder and joy of childhood. The discussions of school readiness and cultivating excellence encouraged us to do even more for

the children of Arkansas. We're continually inspired by your commitment to modeling what it means to be a lifelong learner. See some of our favorite moments below!

There's another opportunity to see us this fall. We'll be at the Arkansas Early Childhood Association conference in Little Rock from October 9-11, 2024. If you haven't already, get registered today. You'll hear from early childhood leaders who will encourage us to make connections with children and link hearts and minds.



See you soon!

*Kelli Hilburn*

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





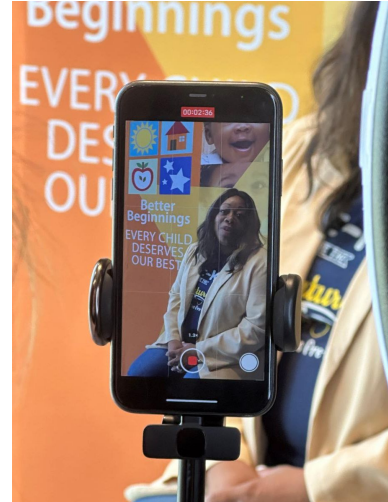
The Better Beginnings team enjoyed seeing rockstar providers from all over the state at the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual A-State Early Childhood Conference.



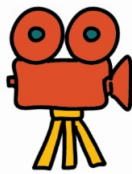
Everyone's passion for providing high-quality care produced great conversations! Check out our [Provider Tools](#) for a checklist to help you reach the next star-level.



Better Beginnings is proud to be your partner on your journey to quality.



We love hearing and sharing your stories and can't wait to hear more at the AECA Conference in October. See you then!



# CAN WE INTERVIEW YOU?

LEARN MORE ↘

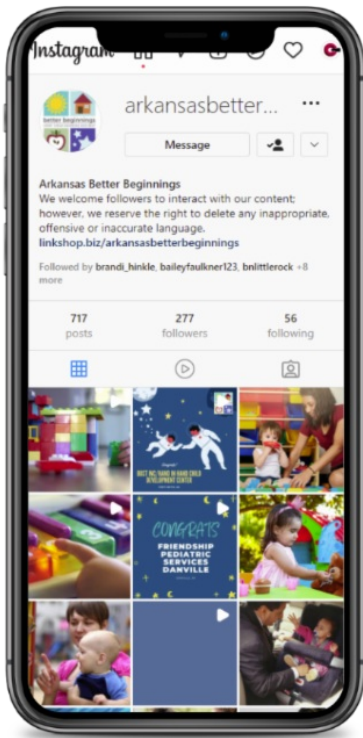


Are you a 4-6 star provider attending the AECA conference in October? We'd love to hear your story! Contact [Lora Mosley](#) for more information or to schedule a time to be interviewed while attending the conference. Interviews will be shared on social media and future editions of the *Buzz* to share how Better Beginnings impacts communities, families, and providers.

**Better Beginnings means better opportunities.** Investing in quality early care and education for all Arkansas children creates better opportunities for our children, families, workforce and communities.

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Better Beginnings is Arkansas' tiered quality rating and 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 of Office of Early Childhood.



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