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A NOTE FROM KELLI HILBURN

PROGRAM SUPERVISOR

Conferences are a great time to connect and learn from each other. That's one of the ways we can create powerful partnerships to better serve the children and families of Arkansas.

During our time at the 53rd annual A-State Early Childhood Education Conference, we were able to do just that. Every conversation at the booth, in the hall, and at the sessions deepened or created relationships. Outside the conference, applying these lessons better our connections with the families and children we

serve.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the conference and our booth activities. Keep reading the *Buzz* to see pictures of the fun times we shared!

We're looking to the next conference in October. The 63rd Arkansas Early Childhood Education Association is Wednesday, October 8 – Friday, October 10 in North Little Rock. This conference will be a special one as Better Beginnings celebrates 15 years of service. We can't wait to see you there for the occasion!



Kelli Hilburn

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BETTER BEGINNINGS PROGRAM SUPERVISOR

DIVISION OF CHILD CARE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



CONFERENCE RECAP

Kelly Matthews, owner of [A Place for You Early Childhood Consulting](#), presented "Building Relationships Right from the Start." She emphasized the importance of connections with young kids, whether its family and friendships or learning how to link ideas and patterns.



We loved meeting you and seeing new faces at the booth! Talk about building relationships and powerful partnerships! When we can connect with each other we can create stronger bonds that strengthen our work in early childhood education.



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.

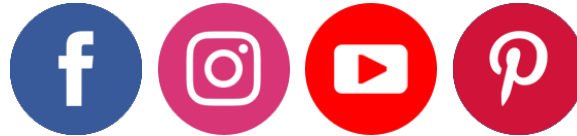


We love hearing and sharing your stories and can't wait to hear more at the AECA Conference in October. See you then!

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 or Office of Early Childhood.



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