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**Better  
Beginnings**  
EVERY CHILD  
DESERVES  
OUR BEST.



**A NOTE FROM  
KELLI HILBURN**

**PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR**

This year, we're looking forward to building bridges through powerful partnerships at the 53rd annual **A-State Early Childhood Education Conference** on August 5-7, 2025, in Jonesboro. We're excited to visit with you and explore how we can improve our provider and family relationships.

Whether this is your first conference or your hundredth, there's a lot to learn. Here's how you can make the most of your time.

- **Have a goal.** Maybe it's learning a new concept or mastering a new skill. Whatever it



is, a goal can help you set your purpose and intention so you spend your time wisely.

- **Attend sessions that align with your goal.** Conference sessions cover a range of topics and ideas. Choose ones that will help you achieve your goal and take good notes.
- **Network with other providers.** Conferences are a great time to meet other providers, learn from each other, and support each other.
- **Talk with industry leaders.** These are your session leaders, conference organizers, keynote speakers, and vendors. They're experts who welcome your questions and want to see you succeed.

Can't wait to see you in Jonesboro!



**Kelli Hilburn**

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM SUPERVISOR

DIVISION OF CHILD CARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

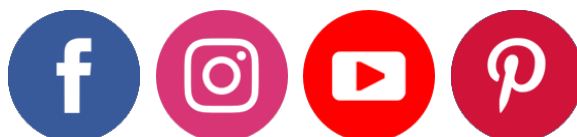


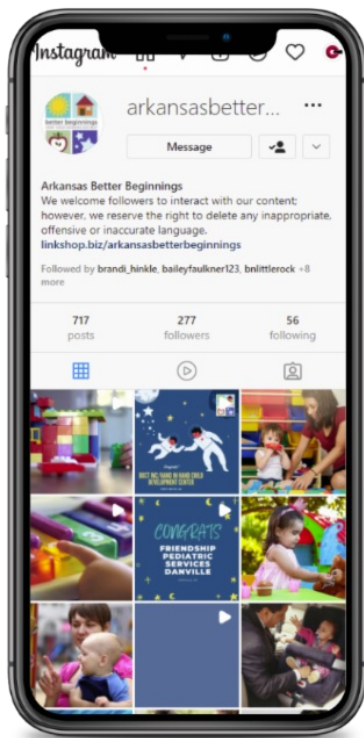
### MEET THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Kelly Matthews, owner of [A Place for You Early Childhood Consulting](#), is presenting "Building Relationships Right from the Start." Kelly has spent more than a decade in early care and education, as well as having been a director, nanny, and teacher in Wisconsin. Alongside her leadership with A Place for You Early Childhood Consulting, she is also a co-director at [Wisconsin Early Education Shared Services Network](#), which provides resources and tools to 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 and Office of Early Childhood.



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