



We love celebrating here at Better Beginnings, and [Arkansas Children's Week](#) is one of our favorite times to celebrate.

Arkansas Children's Week, April 15-21, gives us a chance to celebrate the children and families of Arkansas. They are the reason we do what we do - ensure access to high-quality early childhood education to all of Arkansas's children, so they can [reach for the stars](#).

This year's theme, [Play Yards, Neighborhoods, and Other Special Areas](#), focuses on exploring the immediate environments around us. Exploration and [outdoor play](#) are how children learn. Exploration awakens their natural curiosity which causes them to ask questions and puts them in the best mindset for learning.

Better Beginnings offers many nature-based [resources](#) that encourage exploration and cultivate curiosity. These resources are great companions to the activities in the Arkansas Children's Week [toolkit](#) designed by our friends at Arkansas State University [Childhood Services](#). Keep reading this special edition of *The Buzz* to explore those resources.

Don't let these longer spring days go to waste. Get outside and explore all that our communities have to offer.

Until next time,

*Kelli Hilburn*

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





PLAY,  
EXPLORE,  
LEARN

# EXPLORATION RESOURCES





## Inspire Discovery

This list of age-appropriate activities helps children discover the world around them and how it works. From infants to preschoolers, children will develop their observation skills and gain an understanding of the world around them.

View Resource



## Sticks & Stones Creativity

The world is full of natural resources and is made out of many elements – sticks, rocks, soil, and more. Take a moment while outside to collect small items to bring home. Discuss with children the importance of taking care of our world. Teaching them now will make them caring adults.

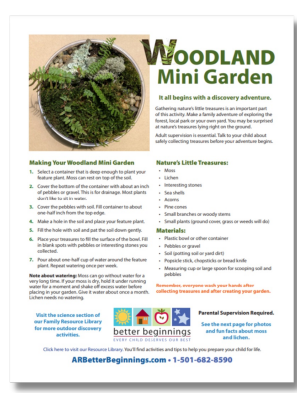
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## Play, Explore, Learn Outdoors

Not only is playing outside beneficial for children and adults, but it also promotes healthy habits and happy attitudes. This resource includes activities that allow children to interact safely with the outdoors.

View Resource



## Woodland Mini Garden

This list of nature’s treasures helps guide making a woodland garden at home! With adult supervision, children can gather stones, moss, small branches, and more to create a garden that requires very little upkeep. It’s the perfect hands-on activity to learn how to care for nature.

View Resource





### Arkansas Children's Week T-Shirt Day

Wear your Arkansas Children's Week t-shirt on Thursday, April 20 to celebrate the children and families of Arkansas in your own center! Share your photos on social media using the hashtag #ARChildrensWeek2023 and encourage others to join in the celebration all year long.



## WHAT IS BETTER BEGINNINGS?

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





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RESOURCES**



Better Beginnings is Arkansas's 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 Human Services Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education.



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