

Quality child care begins with ARBetterBeginnings.com

What is Better Beginnings?

Better Beginnings is Arkansas' quality rating and improvement system for all licensed child care programs in our state. High-quality child care and early childhood education build the foundation for how well our

children learn, their self-esteem and how they interact with their world.

As parents, child care providers, educators and citizens, we have a responsibility to make



sure all of our children have the very best experiences they can. Better Beginnings, Arkansas' quality rating improvement system, does just that!

Better Beginnings:

- emphasizes the value of quality child care
- empowers parents by providing an online tool that identifies and locates quality child care providers in their communities
- gives child care providers valuable tools for improving the quality of their programs
- establishes standards of excellence
- provides a path for providers to meet or exceed these standards

As a result, the quality of child care in our state will continually improve. And, our children will get the start they need to be happy, healthy and productive citizens.



better beginnings

EVERY CHILD DESERVES OUR BEST

ARBetterBeginnings.com

1-800-445-3316



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Division of Child Care
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Children

In a high-quality program, children find comfortable, inviting spaces that encourage exploration and learning. A variety of toys, games and books helps children learn. Children have many opportunities for self-expression through conversation and art activities. The adults in the program are warm and loving and appreciate individual differences.

Better Beginnings promotes meaningful, engaging learning experiences for all children in healthy, safe environments.

Child care providers

Child care providers are important partners in getting our children off to a good start. So it only makes sense that we provide them with the tools they need to have engaging, learning experiences in healthy and safe environments for children. Better Beginnings gives providers a means of self-evaluation and a clear path to improve their programs.

Child care administrators and program directors will find a complete guide and a toolkit for becoming a Better Beginnings certified provider at ARBetterBeginnings.com.

Community and business partners

Educators and others in our communities can become Better Beginnings partners by hosting community forums and workshops. These types of events can focus on relevant early childhood topics or on ways to improve the quality of child care facilities in the community.

Business and industry leaders play an important role. They can help employees make good child care decisions when they



share Better Beginnings information and offer incentives for attending Better Beginnings events. We encourage Better Beginnings partners to provide in-kind support such as copying, printing, consultation, presentation space, etc., on behalf of Better Beginnings consumer education campaigns.

To learn more about volunteer and community involvement opportunities, contact the DHS Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education at 501-682-4891.



Who benefits?

Parents and families

Selecting a child care provider is one of the most important and emotional decisions a parent will make. It is also one of the most difficult. "Where should I start?" "What questions should I ask?" "How can I be sure my child will be safe?" The Better Beginnings Web site provides parents with answers to these questions and so much more.



The Better Beginnings Web site makes it easy for parents to:

- find Better Beginnings certified child care providers in their area
- compare providers based on their quality ratings (one star, two star and three star)
- learn what to look for in a child care facility and know what questions to ask about child care

All Arkansans

We recognize that our children are the future of our state. They will be the parents, business owners and workers who will keep Arkansas strong and prosperous. That's why we take pride in making our children's safety and well-being a priority. Better Beginnings is committed to holding child care providers to established standards of quality and ensuring they have the resources they need to meet those standards.

Quality child care also impacts our state's short-term economic growth. Businesses that consider Arkansas as a future site will be pleased at the availability of quality child care services for their families and their employees.