

BETTER BEGINNINGS QUALITY RATING IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM  
RECIPROCATION POLICY FOR ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE  
PRESCHOOL FACILITIES



The following policy applies only to the accreditation of Arkansas Better Chance center-based facilities where ABC regulations are met in every classroom under the facility license. Arkansas Better Chance regulations include many of the standards for quality care and the ABC programs are monitored for compliance by the Division of Child Care. This document is not intended as a replacement for the Better Beginnings Rules and Regulations, but is offered to reduce duplication of effort for standards that are required by the Arkansas Better Chance program.

**Policy:**

Center-based Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) facilities that are meeting ABC rules for **all** classrooms are eligible to apply for reciprocity with the Better Beginnings Quality Rating Improvement System.

A qualifying facility operated by a public school or Educational Service Cooperative may request reciprocity by submitting a Better Beginnings application Form A and the "Request for Administrative Practices Reciprocity" form. The "Request for Administrative Practices Reciprocity" form is required for initial application and at 12 and 24 months after certification.

A qualifying facility that is not operated by either a public school or an Educational Service Cooperative must provide documentation that administrator qualifications and professional development requirements have been met for the Better Beginnings level they are seeking to obtain. Reciprocity may be requested by submitting a Better Beginnings application Form A and Form C – the Administrative Staff Record. Form C is required for initial application and at 12 and 24 months after certification.

All facilities must be in good standing with the Arkansas Better Chance program, Child Care Licensing and other Department of Human Services Agencies.

The Better Beginnings Program Specialist will verify with the ABC Program Specialist that compliance is being maintained with ABC regulations including educational qualifications and professional development hours for teaching staff, learning environment and curriculum requirements. The most recent ERS scores for the facility will be reviewed.

Additional information may be requested and the applicant may be required to participate in certain portions of Better Beginnings if it is determined that requirements are not being met or maintained.

Upon verification that the requirements have been met, the certification level will be awarded. Certification is valid for 36 months with annual verification required for continued compliance.

Arkansas Better Chance facilities may choose not to participate in the reciprocity process but may choose to participate by meeting the Better Beginnings criteria for the level requested.