

# ABC Staff

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF CHILD CARE & EARLY  
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE  
PROGRAM

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[www.arkansas.gov/childcare](http://www.arkansas.gov/childcare)

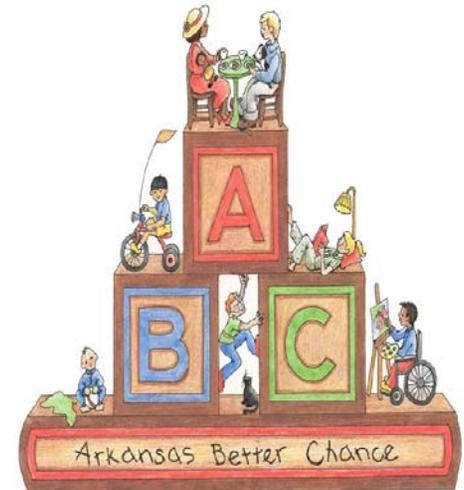


Division of Child Care and  
Early Childhood Education



Department of Human Services

Division of Child Care and Early  
Childhood Education



What is the Arkansas  
Better Chance Program?



This brochure contains information on  
what  
the program entails and who to contact.

# What is Arkansas Better Chance for School Success?

In 2003, the General Assembly made a commitment to expand early childhood education funding by \$100 million over several years. The primary purpose of this program was to prepare children for kindergarten. It specifically targets children three to four years of age from families with a gross income not exceeding 200% of the Federal poverty Level (FPL). This program was titled Arkansas Better Chance for School Success (ABCSS).



# What the Research Tells Us.

One of the ways to measure the success of the ABCSS program was to conduct a longitudinal study to show the progress of the children served throughout their school years. The study, *The Effects of the Arkansas Better Chance Program on Young Children's School Readiness*, is being conducted by The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) and preliminary results have shown great progress in the children being served.

The Arkansas state-funded preschool education program provides early care and education services for children from at-risk or low-income families or for those children in districts in which at least 75 percent of the children have literacy and math scores below proficient levels.

A large body of research shows that high quality preschool programs can lead to increases in school success, higher test scores, fewer school dropouts, higher graduation rates, less special education and even lower crime rates.

The study has already shown there to be improvements in vocabulary, math and literacy skills as a direct result of children having attended a high quality preschool program.

# National Recognition.

Arkansas has been a national leader in achieving recognized quality pre-K benchmarks, including:

- Low staff-child ration (1:10) and small class size (maximum of 20)
- Professional development opportunities for teaching staff
- Research-based curricula correlating to the state frameworks
- Meaningful parent and community engagement
- Development and health screenings
- Periodic observational assessments using an internationally recognized assessment tool

