



ARKANSAS DIVISION OF CHILD CARE LOOKING FOR THE NEXT OUTSTANDING EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONAL



Pictured: Shamanda Nelson of Mineral Springs ABC Preschool (left) and Brandi Burton of The Allen School (right), the 2020 winners of the Arkansas Outstanding Early Childhood Professional award.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (TBD 2021) –The Department of Human Services (DHS) [Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education](#) (DCCECE) is seeking nominations for the next Arkansas Outstanding Early Childhood Professional.

This award, first established in 1988, honors an early childhood professional who makes significant contributions to the early care and education field in Arkansas.

“The eligibility and qualification requirements to be nominated for this prestigious award demonstrate the rigorous standards that are now in place for professionals who choose to serve in the early childhood profession,” said Letha Hassen, education and instruction analyst at DCCECE.

To qualify for the award, nominees must:

- Meet minimum licensing requirements for child care staff.
- Be employed by a licensed provider in good standing.
- Have taught an early childhood classroom for at least three years.
- Plan to remain in early childhood for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.
- Be willing and able to serve as an early childhood ambassador.

The winning professional will serve on committees, represent early childhood educators in the media as needed and be featured on media and social media outlets.

The nomination packet is available on the Better Beginnings [website](#).

The deadline to submit a nomination is 5 p.m. Friday, January 21, 2022. See the nomination packet for submission details.

For more information on finding quality child care in Arkansas or to learn more about Better Beginnings, follow their social media channels on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) or arbetterbeginnings.com.

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About Arkansas Better Beginnings:

[Better Beginnings](#) is Arkansas's 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](#). Better Beginnings connects Arkansas families with the information and care that helps children experience a safe, happy and healthy childhood.