

# Notice of Rule Making

Pursuant to Acts 820 and 1268 of 1993, Ark. Code Ann. §6-45-103 (Supp.1993) and revised by Act 1132 of 1997 Ark. code §20-78-201-226 as amended, the Administrator of the Child Care Licensing and Accreditation Unit, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, hereby issues the following proposed changes to the Arkansas Child Care Approval System.

Effective for date of service on April 1, 2010, the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, Child Care Licensing and Accreditation Unit, proposes the following changes:

The Arkansas Child Care Approval System will be revised and renamed "Better Beginnings." It will include three (3) levels of certification that a child care facility can achieve to support improvements of child care programs and communicate the level of quality. The system components include requirements for Administration, Administrator and Staff Qualifications, Professional Development, Learning Environment, Environmental Assessment and Child Health and Development. There are slight variations of requirements for family child care and for school age only centers, as compared to a child care center which may serve any age child.

The proposed changes are available for review at [www.arkansas.gov/childcare](http://www.arkansas.gov/childcare) or at the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Donaghey Plaza South, 7<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets, P.O. Box 1437, Slot S150, Little Rock, AR 72203-1437. Comments may be made at the public hearings listed below or may be submitted in writing. All comments submitted in writing must be received no later than one month from the date of publication of this notice.

If you need this material in a different format, such as large print, contact our American with Disabilities Act Coordinator at 501-682-1461 (voice) or 501-682-6789 and 1-800-7098-8191 (TDD).

The Arkansas Department of Human Services is in compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act and is operated, managed and delivers services without regard to religion, disability, political affiliation, veteran status, age, race, color or national origin.

Public hearings on these proposed revisions will be held on:

November 16, 2009, at 11:00 AM at the St. Paul United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 700 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street, El Dorado, AR

November 17, 2009, at 11:00 AM at the ASU Childhood Services Building, 615 University Loop East, Jonesboro, AR

November 23, 2009, at 11:00 AM at Helen R. Walton Childrens Enrichment Center, Early Childhood Initiatives Center, 1701 NE Wildcat Way, Bentonville, AR

December 2, 2009, at 10:00 AM at the Main Street Mall Building, 101 E. Capitol, Conference Room C, Little Rock