

The Children's Journal

News from Campus Child Care for parents, advocates and all who work to provide quality early care and education for children and their families.

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OUR MISSION

The Office of Child Care and Family Resources promotes the academic and professional goals of the University of Wisconsin community through the administration of early education and family support programs.

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School of Education
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Message from Cigdem



Thank you to our campus and community partners for your support of Jazzin'. The proceeds from last year's fundraiser enabled campus and network teachers to attend the 2018 Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA) annual conference in Middleton.

This conference brings together early childhood professionals (teachers, program administrators, students, researchers, and teacher educators) from around the state to explore the latest research and best practices in our field. Professional development is a necessary and proactive strategy to ensure that our teachers continue to build on their skills throughout their careers. Opportunities such as the WECA conference lead to improvements in the knowledge, practice, and disposition of early childhood professionals.

The energy and excitement of more than 170 UW-Madison teachers attending the conference was incredible! It was also inspiring to attend the presentations of six UW-Madison Child Development Lab teachers, one of which was on the keynote stage. They are outstanding and dedicated professional educators. I was deeply impressed, honored, and proud to be part of their journey, and to watch them evolve into state leaders.

According to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), high-quality early childhood educators are the key to quality programs. Teachers with advanced preparation and ongoing professional development are more likely to have effective, positive interactions with children and their families and to create higher quality learning environments and experiences. Caring for kids means investing in teachers' professional development.

Becoming a teacher requires not only degree credentials, but also the cultivation of a professional identity through practice in the classroom and through continued professional learning. I believe that professional development is critical to early childhood educators because it allows teachers to share, network, and remain current in the field.

Another powerful session at the conference was the screening of "No Small Matter," a documentary film and national engagement campaign that brings public attention to the human capacity for early intelligence, the importance of quality early care and early education for all children, and why we are failing so many children in this country. We hope to bring it to our campus for a viewing. Stay tuned for more information in the fall.

Child Care Network Snapshot: Welcome to the Meeting House

We are pleased to introduce another campus child care network partner. Meeting House Nursery School is one of Madison's oldest and finest half-day preschool programs, delighting thousands of children since 1949. The Meeting House is located on University Bay Drive in the heart of west campus. Its mission is to provide children with a play-based curriculum in a welcoming environment that encourages exploration, celebrates the individual, and fosters meaningful relationships. The curriculum at Meeting House Nursery School has always been based upon the importance of free play, a respect for children and their ideas, and

the freedom for children to explore and develop relationships.

The program is housed in the west wing of the First Unitarian Church, a building designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and designated as a national landmark. Meeting House has five classrooms and two fenced playgrounds, which offer a variety of large motor equipment and movement opportunities.

According to director Michele McDonough, "The teachers plan a program that is developmentally appropriate, focusing on the "whole child" in terms of his/her social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development."



We appreciate your generous support!

University Staff Child Care Grant

AFSCME Local 2412
 Patricia Lasky
 Mary Czyszczak-Lyne
 William Richner
 Joan Richner
 Josiah Redford
 Sara Redford
 Sally Rowe
 William Bauer

New Campus Child Care Initiatives


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 Nancy Borghesi
 David Castro
 Amanda Durik
 Karen Crossley
 Alan Crossley
 Community Foundation of the Lowcountry
 Ecolab Foundation
 Evjue Foundation Inc.
 Laura McAlinden
 Robert Miller
 Lynette Miller
 William Richner
 Joan Richner

Student Child Care Scholarship Grants

Vicki Bier
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 Julie Christoph
 Brady Christoph
 Jennifer Fenne
 Hsin-Mu Lin
 Shu-Yuan Lin
 Aaron Lowe
 Katharine Lyall
 Daryl Moe
 Elizabeth Moe
 Brain McCall
 Lauren McCall
 Heather Orth
 Kevin Orth



Courage to Teach: A Year of Renewal for Campus Early Educators

Our campus educators take on increasingly complex roles: caregivers to diverse groups of young children facing various transitions, counselors to parents facing high-stress situations within their careers or their goal of degree completion, mentors to future early educators in the student-teaching practicum, and role models for the greater early childhood community. Facilitated by Mary Peters, MSE,  Courage to Teach is a year-long series of four retreats, focused on self-awareness, reflection and renewal, and relationships, specifically designed for early educators with a focus on self-efficacy and situational leadership. This program helps educators do the inner work necessary to not only stay in the profession, but also to strengthen the quality of experience they offer within their classrooms. Reflective practices and communication skills used during the retreat experiences become tools for working with others outside of the retreat experience, enhancing teamwork and professionalism. One of the major goals of this program is the cultivation of self-care and well-being.

Parker Palmer, founder of the Center for Courage and Renewal, states, "Good teaching cannot be reduced to technique; good teaching comes from the identity and integrity of the teacher." Courage to Teach focuses neither on pedagogical technique, nor directly on curriculum design or school reform, but rather on renewing the inner lives of professionals in education.

So much is expected of our campus early care and education professionals and they rise to the challenge because we continue to invest in their success. This professional development program is tailored to meet the unique needs of our campus educators, encouraging them to reconnect to their passions and reach for excellence in their work. In turn, participants will be better able to engage with families and hear their concerns and dreams, become more attuned observers of young children, provide more secure care for our youngest Badgers, and act as the ultimate role models to student teachers and the greater early childhood community.

Candice Wagener

Infant, Early Childhood & Family Mental Health Capstone Program



This current academic year, Tera Sarow and I (both teachers at Eagle's Wing) have been fortunate to participate in the Infant, Early Childhood & Family Mental Health Capstone program at UW-Madison. We join a cohort of early childhood professionals, including Birth to Three and Head Start providers, mental health clinicians, nurses, specialists, and educators in learning how to provide extremely valuable mental health consultation for young children and their families. Course content is informed by theory and knowledge from developmental, neuroscience, and attachment research.

The cohort meets for three days each month, and topics include how to administer and interpret various assessments and screeners for children and families; attachment theory; cultural implications and responsiveness in working with families of various backgrounds; sensory integration; and trauma-informed care. Additionally, the course has a mindfulness component and includes certification in the Newborn Behavioral Observation through the Brazelton Institute.

The foundation of all domains of human development is laid in those early years. The need for early consultation, evaluation, and intervention is undeniable. Studies indicate that the demand for professionals trained in this specialty is on the rise as the number of infants and young children living with trauma and toxic stress continues to grow. Tara and I are bringing what we learn back to our practice, as well as sharing these teachings with our colleagues at Eagle's Wing. We have already gleaned so many valuable lessons to make us more responsive, informed, and empathetic in our work with young children and their families. We are each planning a final project that will directly benefit Eagle's Wing. Tera is working on using video replay to help teachers examine and build their connection with students, and I am working on increasing teacher knowledge about children's sensory needs and creating a dedicated sensory break area at our center. We are deeply grateful to OCCFR and UW-Madison Division of Housing for their funding support and for allowing us to pursue this important opportunity.

Ellie Squire

Help us celebrate campus child care and early education!
 Join us at **Jazzin'** on **April 17**.

Paying it Forward: Miranda's Story

According to the Institute for Women's Policy Research, student parent enrollment in higher education is trending upward. Affordability of quality child care often determines if a student parent can continue to pursue post-secondary degrees. When a financial emergency strikes, student parents often have nowhere to turn. With private gift dollars, our office offers a one-time grant to help in a time of crisis. Here is a testimonial from Miranda Newman, a student parent who received an award from the Student Child Care Scholarship Grants fund:

Living with wages well below the poverty line is a stressful truth for many people. Attempting to continue upper-level education while managing the responsibilities of motherhood is a challenge. Combining the two is plain lunacy; exactly what I am currently undertaking. I often find it difficult to maintain the mental clarity necessary to be a successful student and parent with the weight of potential financial collapse on my shoulders. My experience is not unique but is still uncommon. Yet, I understand that these hardships are those



Miranda Newman and her son

of privilege and I gladly undertake any stress with the hopes of a productive future. With that, I am perpetually grateful for those donors to the Student Child Care Scholarship Grants fund who have generously gifted me, and several others, with financial support. Without this aid, I would not have the opportunity to complete my academic aspirations.

Development News

In the words of American-Scottish conservationist John Muir, "Spring work is going on with joyful enthusiasm." The momentum of the season is moving us forward as we prepare for **Jazzin'**. By the time this newsletter arrives, Jazzin' will be a couple of weeks away. Traditionally, this event takes place toward the end of May, after graduation. We decided to try something new and move the date up to April 17 to coincide with the celebration of Week of the Young Child. Our goal is a boost in attendance and greater campus visibility. We will let you know the outcome and, as always, we would love to see you there!

Year-end giving numbers are still being posted to Advancement Resources, but early returns indicate that there has been a 13% increase in gift volume of \$100 or more and a 5% increase in gift amounts over last year. **The Student Child Care Scholarship Grants** fund has seen the most growth as student parent alumni recognize the value of the Child Care Tuition Assistance Program (CCTAP) to their academic success. In turn, they are making a strong commitment to

those student parents who are currently enrolled and who follow in their footsteps.

Since we initiated the **UW Badger Families for Families** campaign, our office has awarded grants to student parents faced with crisis situations that would impede their ability to complete their degrees and/or to pay for the cost of care for their children. Last December, we issued two awards.

At UW-Madison, children are our primary concern and at the center of all our efforts. Your gifts enable us to make a profound difference in their lives and in the well-being of their teachers and families. Thank you for all you do to support our work and please consider making a gift to Campus Child Care. The giving page on our website, <https://occfr.wisc.edu/giving/>, provides descriptions and UW Foundation links to our five funds. As always, feel free to contact me with any questions about contributions, programs, or to discuss how you can help with major gifts.

Teri Stratton

Student Child Care Scholarship Grants

Matthew Oswald
Karen Oswald

Terrence Peterson

Todd Pilcher
Corrine Pilcher

Josiah Redford
Sara Redford

Lindsay Reiten

Linda Reivitz

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Patricia Fessenden
Robert Fessenden

Marlene Hartzman
Robert Hartzman

Daniel Jarzemsky
Paula Jarzemsky

Mary Peters
Edward Peters

Joan Pulver

*Gifts received
March 2018-February 2019



Wisconsin Strong!

The Greater Dane County Early Care and Education Director's Caucus in collaboration with the Wisconsin Early Childhood Association, the Office of Child Care and Family Resources, Madison Public Libraries, and Satellite Family Child Care presents the second annual Wisconsin Strong! event on April 9, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Madison Central Library, 3rd floor. The purpose of Wisconsin Strong! is to draw intersections between business and early care and education. This year's event brings together three distinct voices: employers, working parents, and child care programs. Join us for an interactive panel discussion with local stakeholders, facilitated by Adrienne Smolinski, Resource Manager at Total Administrative Resources Corp (TASC) and our own Abbi Kruse, Executive Director of the Playing Field (a UW campus network center). Learn about child care challenges and consider innovative solutions to keep Wisconsin Strong for the next generation.

This event is hosted during a national week to honor children, April 7–13. Week of the Young Child (WOYC) is dedicated to calling attention to young children, their families, and their greater support network of early care and education. Sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, WOYC first started in 1971 in an effort to “plan how we—as citizens of a community, of a state, and of a nation—will better meet the needs of all young children and their families.”

As part of the Wisconsin Strong! festivities, children and their caregivers will attend a music program sponsored by Beyond Dane at the Overture Center celebrating the joys of childhood. Attendees from this event are invited to join a reception after the formal presentation of Wisconsin Strong! in the lobby of the 3rd floor at Madison Public Library.



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