

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



We hope that you and your family are staying strong and healthy! What unique and uncertain times we live in. The pandemic has presented us with unforeseen challenges. It is harder on some than others, but it impacts every one of us. This critical time on our campus has required that campus child care program administrators think outside an ever-expanding box. Our office continues to offer leadership and expertise to ensure high standards for the campus early care and education community.

We are deeply concerned about the effects of COVID-19 on our campus early childhood centers (Eagle's Wing, Waisman Early Childhood Program, Child Development Lab) children, families, and early educators. As leaders in the field of early childhood, campus programs are models of excellence and make it their top priority that UW-Madison families receive the highest quality early education and care for their children. High-quality child care is essential to the career success of our campus stakeholders as it enables students to realize their educational goals and UW-Madison employees to reach their professional aspirations. While families have been quarantined at home,

access to the services and support of campus child care centers has been an invaluable tool for parents and their children.

During center closures, teachers stayed in close contact with children in their classrooms and their families, providing technology-based resources and activities. This shared expertise yielded rich early childhood learning for children at home. Collaboration with parents always means that children receive the care and attention they need to achieve the best developmental outcomes.

Campus centers finally reopened on June 29. This is a sure sign of progress. We are optimistic that enrollment will climb to pre-COVID-19 capacity. We also know that the fallout from this crisis will persist beyond this year. The entire early education community will need our support. To that end, we have created additional resources to help campus families, including a monthly electronic newsletter and increased access to webinars by early childhood and parenting experts. We are also pleased to announce that we've established a new COVID-19 Relief Fund to assist our centers with lost income, teacher salaries, administrative overhead, and PPE and sanitation protection. You can read more about this giving opportunity in Development News.

Child Care Network Snapshot: Creative Learning Preschool

One of the six Network providers in the child care system at UW-Madison is Creative Learning Preschool (CLP). This center is located off the Capitol Square. CLP curriculum follows the High Scope philosophy. This educational approach is based on Piaget's child development theories that stress the role of children as active learners. The center's many amenities include music and movement classes, Spanish lessons, cloth diaper service, and chef-prepared meals. The CLP community empowers children by instilling a positive sense of self, empathy toward others, and an appreciation for diversity. Its core philosophy is that children are capable and confident learners who help guide their own learning experiences through their interests and by exploring the world around them. Parents and families act as partners in the educational process, as CLP makes a point to incorporate each family's unique set of values and experiences into the classroom.



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The COVID-19 Effect: Views from the Inside of Campus Child Care

Greetings from Eagle's Wing. We are open and thrilled that our center is abuzz with the sound of happy children. March seems like a distant memory. At our first Zoom meeting, teachers wore silly hats to bring some levity to the situation. A few short weeks later, tears and tissue replaced those hats as reality sunk in and the enormity of the situation had been fully understood.

The past several months have been both challenging and rewarding. Technology has played a big role in keeping our teachers and children connected. During the time we were closed, teachers planned virtual group times, story times, pajama parties, and sing-alongs. Children interacted with their friends and teachers, which helped ease the transition back to the classroom. The directors of our campus programs worked hard to create safe operating procedures, including morning health checks, and lots of hand washing. We are finding our way and continue to discover moments of magic with our Eagle's Wing children every single day.

There have been many lessons in this process. For me, the biggest one is taking things one day at a time. I like to plan ahead, and unfortunately during this time, things are constantly in flux with many unknown

factors. Our budget was severely affected by the closure. Since tuition pays teacher salaries, I searched for outside funding sources to help make up for the lack of revenue.

In times of crisis, there is often a silver lining. For Eagle's Wing, seeing what the teachers did to brighten the lives of children and families was amazing. They really helped support our children and parents,

especially during the first several weeks when everyone was following the "Safer at Home" mandate. We went from closing on March 17, to acquiring laptops for all teachers and reaching out to families on Zoom by the end of that same week. I am thankful that we were able to retain our entire staff, albeit at reduced percentages. Early childhood educators are a resilient bunch, and we didn't need a pandemic to prove it.



Eagle's Wing teacher, Wonhee Chung, signs a child in to the Glider program.

*Paula Zipperer,
Eagle's Wing Director*

Living on the Edge: Student Parents and COVID-19

Student parents already face unique work-school-family-life balancing challenges. And when we add in the stress of living through a global health crisis; caring for and educating children at home; and worrying about the health of aging family members (who for many students at UW-Madison are far way in other countries), these challenges are only intensified. This time has raised a question for many parents that student parents have always been asking: how do you manage the full-time commitments of scholarship, raising good humans, providing for your family, and managing a household when you are just one person with only 24 hours in a day?

This pandemic has made us painfully aware of the answer: you don't. You can't. Something always has to give, and for most student parents that means sacrificing sleep and sanity. But COVID-19 has also woken many people up to how unsustainable this is and the simple fact that parents need better options and more support.

In working with the student-parent population at UW-Madison, I've suggested these three coping strategies:

- **Accept support:** Whether that means "podding up" with a neighbor to help share virtual schooling

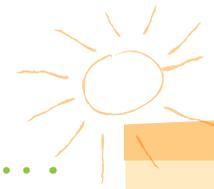
demands or sending your kids back to child care, it is okay to need, ask for, and accept help. We aren't meant to do this alone, we are meant to have a village and yours is out there.

- **Manage stress:** Managing our stress response is one of the most powerful things we can do to increase our overall well-being. Five deep breaths, five minutes out in nature, a five-minute loving-kindness meditation, a five-minute dance party in the kitchen. Keep it simple so that you can actually do it.
- **Employees and professors:** Without singling anyone out, open up a compassionate dialogue about the challenges your students or employees are facing and the support they may need. Often student parents feel compelled to seem as if they have it all together and may struggle silently.

And the other thing about student parents is: they are creative and resilient. While there have been increases in stress and obligations, the student parents I've had the privilege to work with have also expressed gratitude for more time with their children and the opportunity to re-examine priorities and approach work-life balance with more intention.

Dr. Laura Froyen, PhD

MBA Mom: How Campus Child Care Helped Pave Way



I was accepted into the Wisconsin School of Business's full-time MBA program while pregnant with our second child. My husband and I were excited about this amazing opportunity for me to pursue a new career path. But we also immediately questioned what we would do for child care for our new infant and our then four-year-old son. My husband worked full-time, running his own business, and we knew we would need to come up with a solution so that he could continue earning for the family while I concentrated on my studies. The MBA program is an intense, two-year program, and I was one of a handful of MBA students with small children at home. Rigorous coursework is paired with time-consuming and competitive internship and full-time job searches during both years of the program. With no extended family in Madison to help with the kids, I had to find a way to keep up with my classmates, maximize learning as a career-switcher, and focus on finding employment with a top company.

We quickly learned about the Child Care Tuition Assistance Program (CCTAP) offered

by the Office of Child Care and Family Resources (OCCFR). We inquired and applied right away, recognizing that proceeding with the MBA would be dependent on finding support on the child care front.

We received generous support from both CCTAP and the CCAMPIS federal grant program. Because of this child care tuition assistance, I was able to successfully complete my MBA. In addition to allowing me the time and energy to focus on my new career path, the programs also enabled us to enroll both our four-year-old son and our infant daughter in one of UW's high-quality preschools. Our children were well cared for by excellent teachers, and the OCCFR staff was always warm, supportive, and helpful. Pursuing the MBA at UW-Madison was one of the best decisions I've ever made, and we will always cherish our time as part of the UW-Madison family. I could not have done this without the incredibly generous support of the OCCFR.

Mary Roberts

MBA 2020 | Wisconsin School of Business

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Shedd Aquarium

Smoky's Club

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Stoughton Opera House

Swim West

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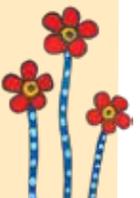
The Madison Concourse Hotel

University Book Store

Vintage Brewery

Willy Street Coop

Wisconsin Cutlery & Kitchen Supply



Development News

It seems like only yesterday that I was putting the final pieces into place for Jazzin', our annual fundraiser. As you might suspect, Jazzin' was cancelled three weeks before it was scheduled to take place. We owe the success of this event to many campus and community friends who make financial contributions and in-kind donations to Jazzin'. While the event did not happen this year, these valuable partners have not been forgotten. You will find a list of businesses and individual donors in the margins of pages two and three. We are excited to share that a Jazzin' virtual silent auction will occur this fall. Stay tuned for details!

Our campus centers reopened their doors on June 29. Needless to say, the financial fallout from more than three months of closure has been considerable. Income lost totaled approximately \$27,000-\$30,000 a week for each center, for a total of \$81,000-\$90,000 a week or \$324,000-\$360,000 a month for all campus centers. Center budgets rely on tuition for

economic survival and their budgets allow for little contingency. With enrollment at an all-time low, current tuition intake does not begin to pay the bills. In short, we have a growing crisis on our hands.

We need your support now more than ever and ask that you consider making a gift to benefit our three campus early education centers during these very challenging times. To that end, we have established a new COVID-19 Relief Fund to assist our centers with lost income, teacher salaries, administrative overhead, and PPE and sanitation protection. The health and well-being of the children, families, and staff in our programs remain our highest priority. Please help us ensure that they have the resources they need to thrive. To make a gift to this fund, please visit: <https://www.supportuw.org/giveto/OCCFRfund>. Do not hesitate to contact Cigdem or me if you have any questions or if you wish to know the best fit for your gift.

Teri Stratton

Lil' Badger Bash 2020

Every year, before the start of the fall semester, the OCCFR sponsors the Lil' Badger Bash for returning families who receive Child Care Tuition Assistance (CCTAP). Typically, this evening is filled with festive activities, including a guest appearance by Bucky Badger, and a hearty burrito dinner. At the center of this event is our backpack giveaway. Parents can pick out backpacks stuffed with basic school supplies for children ages five and older. This year, we also provided preschool packs so the little ones could join in the fun. Although we couldn't gather in person because of the pandemic, we were still able to host a virtual backpack giveaway. Current CCTAP families were able to choose their favorite backpack, then come to our office in Eagle Heights for pick up. With protocols in place, everyone was safe and left happy and ready to begin the school year.

