



Office of Child Care
and Family Resources
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

BADGER BUZZ



Photo by Althea Dotzour / UW-Madison

February Updates & Events for UW Parents

February is here and the Wisconsin weather is just as unpredictable as ever! In this issue of Badger Buzz, you'll find our spring parenting classes, scholarships for single parents and nontraditional students, family Valentine's Day events, volunteer opportunities, winter kids activities (no snow necessary!) and more.

Important Dates:

February 10 - [Deadline for Nontraditional Student & Single Parent Scholarship](#)

February 14, 15, 16 - [Enchantment Under the Stars Planetarium Show](#)

Now Available! - [2025-2026 FAFSA Application](#)

What did one squirrel say to the other?

Scroll to the end to find out!



Spring Parenting Classes

OCCFR's Spring Parenting Classes with Dr. Laura Froyen begin soon! This semester's classes cover topics from teamwork in parenting to child anxiety to boundaries with family. Check out the class calendar and register below.

[Register here!](#)



KidsKare application is open!

In case you missed it, the Spring 2025 KidsKare application is open. Use the link below to apply for discounted hourly child care at Little Chicks Learning Academy.

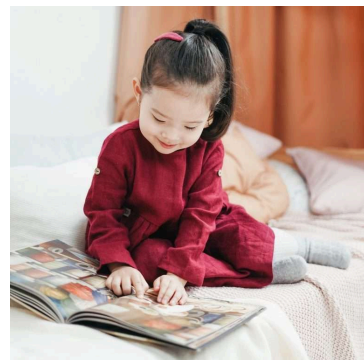
[Apply here](#)

Where to find free kids books!

Do you have a little reader in your family? Check out this informative article on places to find free children's books.

[Learn More](#)

Photo: cottonbro studios via Pexels



Energy Bill Assistance from MG&E

Did you know that you may be eligible for financial assistance with your energy bill this winter? Check out these programs and resources from Madison Gas & Electric to learn more and check your eligibility.

[Learn More](#)

Photo: Dan Lefebvre via Unsplash

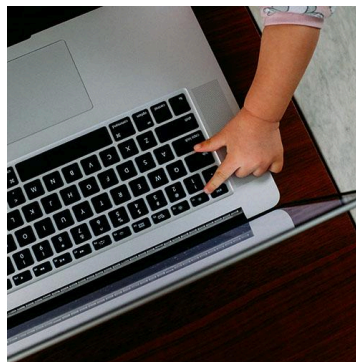


Child Tax Credit

Tax season is upon us! Parents and guardians with qualifying children may be eligible for a child tax credit. You may be able to claim the credit even if you don't normally file a tax return. Follow the link to learn more and find out whether you qualify.

[Learn More](#)

Photo: charlesdeluvio via Unsplash



Winter Activities with or without Snow!

The snow in Wisconsin has been sparse this winter, making traditional activities like sledding and building snowmen difficult. Here are five creative activities for your children to try out this winter with little or no snow required!

[Learn More](#)

Photo: Jan Canty via Unsplash



Roya A.

Degree: PhD

Hometown: Tehran, Iran

Languages spoken in our home: Persian

Favorite children's book: Elephant and Piggie, Olivia/Peppa Pig

Favorite place to visit with my kids: Children's Museum, Public Library, Urban Air

About Me: We are a family of three, and our daily routine is wonderfully coordinated. My husband and I work in the same lab, and our son attends daycare located in the same facility. This setup is incredibly convenient, allowing us to start and end our day together as a family.

How do you balance academics, career and family responsibilities?

I set a schedule for work and family time. My husband and I share responsibilities, coordinate our schedules, and support each other in managing professional and personal commitments.

What would you tell a parent who was considering pursuing an education at UW-Madison?

Being a parent doesn't have to conflict with pursuing an academic career if you establish a well-structured schedule that aligns with your family's needs and priorities. By carefully balancing your responsibilities, setting realistic goals, and

staying organized, it's possible to dedicate quality time to both your academic pursuits and your family.

Is there anything else you'd like to share with the parenting community at UW-Madison?

I'd encourage parents to connect with one another, through university events, support groups, or casual meetings.

Volunteers needed!

The Village Diaper Bank is seeking volunteers to help with monthly pick-up and distribution of free diapers to graduate student families at the [Eagle Heights Community Center](#). On the **last Wednesday of each month**, volunteer drivers are needed **from 3-5 PM** and distribution volunteers are needed **from 5-6 PM**. This service provides over 10,000 free diapers to UW families each month and it's not possible without volunteers. Sign up or find more information at the link below!

[Learn More or sign up!](#)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

DIAPER DISTRIBUTION

Last Wednesday of each month



3-5 PM (drivers)



5-6 PM (distribution)



Eagle Heights Community Center



the village
DIAPER BANK



UPCOMING FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS

[Art Club for Families - Draw Your Own Stickers](#)

Feb 5, 4:00-5:30 PM
Goodman South Madison Library

[Winter Carnival](#)

Feb 6-9, varying times
Memorial Union Terrace

[Groove & Glide](#)

Feb 7, 6:00-8:00 PM
Heritage Heights Park

[Kids in the Rotunda - Drum Power](#)

Feb 8, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM
Overture Center - Rotunda Stage

[Lunar New Year](#)

Feb 8, 9:30-11:30 AM
Verona Public Library

[Skate Cinema](#)

Feb 8, 4:00-7:00 PM
Tenney Park

[Growing Voices Music Class](#)

Feb 11, 10:00-10:45 AM
Pinney Library

[Family Fun Night](#)

Feb 14, 5:30-8:00 PM
Warner Park Community Recreation Center, \$5/family

[Bilingual Storytime](#)

Feb 15, 10:00-10:30 AM
Pinney Library

[Barn Dance](#)

Feb 15, 4:00-6:00 PM
Goodman Community Center

[Family Nature Program: Winter Birds](#)

Feb 16, 1:30-3:30 PM
UW-Madison Arboretum - Visitor Center

[Preschool Science - Five Senses](#)

Feb 17, 10:00-11:00 AM
Fitchburg Library

[Family Pajama Storytime](#)

Feb 17, 6:00-7:00 PM
Fitchburg Library

[Toddler Dance Party](#)

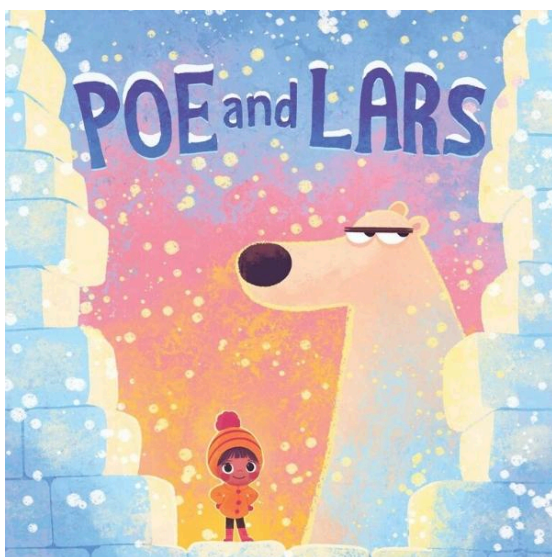
Feb 20, 10:00-10:45 AM
Sequoia Library

[Kids in the Rotunda - The Jerry Ensemble](#)

Feb 22, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM
Overture Center - Rotunda Stage

[Scenic Stroll](#)

Feb 23, 1:00-2:00 PM
UW-Madison Arboretum - Visitor Center



Book of the Month: *Poe and Lars*

Poe is a resourceful and creative girl living in the snowy Arctic. Although she enjoys her life, Poe longs for company. But everything changes one day when Lars, a grumpy and hungry polar bear who is quite the poor hunter, crashes into her home, destroying it. Poe offers to bring him food and, in exchange, Lars must repair her home. Kids will love this hilarious and brilliantly illustrated tale about an unconventional friendship!

[Read Aloud Storytime](#)



Craft of the Month: Paper Plate Snail Craft

The paper plate snail craft is a fun and creative activity for kids using a paper plate, construction paper, glue and markers. This craft is a great way to recycle any scrap paper by cutting or tearing it into pieces to design the snail's shell. Children can decorate the shell with a variety of materials like paper, beads, or even pom-pom balls.

[Learn More](#)

Chef's Corner

Frozen Strawberry Chips



Blend strawberries, yogurt, honey, vanilla, and salt until smooth. Spoon the mixture onto a parchment paper lined baking sheet in 1 tablespoon portions. Place in the freezer for 1-2 hours or until frozen. If desired, melt chocolate and dip chips in. Return chips to the freezer to solidify. Enjoy!

Ingredients:

1 ½ cups strawberries, stems removed
1 cup plain or vanilla greek yogurt
2 tbsp honey
½ tsp vanilla extract
Pinch of salt
1 cup chocolate chips or melting chocolate (optional)

Recipe from 12tomatoes.com

Answer:

What did one squirrel say to the other?

I'm nuts about you!



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