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

BADGER BUZZ

Photo by Bryce Richter / UW–Madison

March Updates & Events for UW Parents

As we transition from winter to spring, this month brings new opportunities for growth, learning, and connection for UW-Madison families. In this issue, we're sharing exciting summer camps, helpful parenting classes, resources for children with disabilities, and weekend child care opportunities. Let's embrace the longer days and fresh beginnings together—happy reading!

Important Dates:

March 7 - Deadline to **apply for Spring 2025 CCTAP funding**

March 22-30 - UW-Madison Spring Recess

That's So Punny!

What kind of garden does a baker have?
Scroll to the end to find out!

Supporting Anxious Kids - Free, virtual parenting class

Anxiety disorders are the most commonly diagnosed mental health concern in childhood. Even if your child doesn't have a formal diagnosis, if you've noticed that they have worries or anxieties that you're not sure how to support them through, this workshop is for you!

Learn more about anxiety and how you as the parent are uniquely positioned to help them through it.

Part 1: Friday, March 14
Part 2: Friday, March 21
12:00 PM-1:15 PM
Free | Virtual class

Register here!

Saturday Child Care for UW families at Little Chicks

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**.

UW-Madison employees (including postdocs) are eligible for 30 hours of $5/hour care each fall and spring semester.

UW-Madison parenting students can receive 50 hours of free or $5/hour care each fall, spring, and summer semester.

Spots fill up quickly, so apply today and make your reservation!

Apply here

UW Rec Well Summer Camp Registration

Explore summer day camp offered through Rec Well for children ages 5-14!

Returning family registration is March 3-5
New family registration opens March 7

Learn More

Photo: UW Rec Well

Summer Adventures Await: Camp Opportunities for Madison Kiddos

Summer is just around the corner and most summer camps will open registration in March! Check out this blog post from Madison Family highlighting a **variety of summer camps for kids** interested in everything from art to animals to tech.

Learn More

Photo: Robert Kneschke

Weekend Trip Guide for Family Fun!

Who says you need to fly away for a vacation? We've got plenty of beautiful landscapes, delicious food, and **fun events for families** — all within driving distance of Madison.

Learn More

Photo: fstop123 from Getty Images Signature

Free Equipment Lending Library

Kindred Kids is a Wisconsin non-profit that has a **rotating lending library of tools and equipment for children with disabilities,** including wheelchairs, adaptive strollers, feeding equipment, physical therapy tools, and more!

Learn More

Photo: Nicolas Menijes

Student Parent SPOTLIGHT

Michelle Bretl

Major: Communication Sciences and Disorders

Hometown: Seattle, WA

Favorite children's book: The Smart Cookie

About Me: I am a 3rd year Ph.D student and my research focuses on the biology of the voice and vocal folds. I am fascinated by the voice largely because of my experience as a classical singer and I hope to investigate improved treatments for hard-to-treat voice disorders. Outside of my school and work, I spend as much time as possible with my husband, Nick, and two daughters, Devi and Quinn. My goal is for my girls to know that they can dream big and do whatever they set their minds to.

What is your favorite family activity?
Our favorite activity/tradition is family dinner - it really is such a precious time with our little ones! We have also been loving exploring new board games with our oldest.

What is your proudest moment as a parent?
Nick and I were especially proud to see our girls actively playing together for the first time. Devi loves to do everything she can to make Quinn laugh and it’s so much fun to watch.

What is one takeaway from an OCCFR parenting class that you've applied in your parenting?
I have loved taking the classes offered by OCCFR. I am learning to be a parent for the first time and one takeaway is that the perfect parent doesn’t exist. I try to give myself grace as I make mistakes as a parent and learn from them. I want my kids to see what it looks like to both make mistakes and acknowledge those mistakes so they don’t happen again.

What would you tell a parent who was considering pursuing an education at UW-Madison?
The resources that UW-Madison has for student parents is above and beyond what you'll find on almost any campus. You have an instant community and cheering section, and we all know that those things are invaluable to parents!

Is there anything else you'd like to share with the parenting community at UW-Madison?
While I may be the student parent, I couldn't do what I do well without my husband, Nick. I am in awe of all parents, but particularly those who take it on solo. Kudos to my fellow parents!

UPCOMING FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS

Art Club for Families - Hot Glue Sculptures
Mar 5, 4:00-5:30 PM
Goodman South Madison Library

Preschool Storytime
Mar 7, 10:00-10:30 AM
Sequoya Library

International Festival
Mar 8, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM
Overture Center

Family Fun Night
Mar 14, 5:30-8:00 PM
Warner Park Community Recreation Center, $5/family

Kids in the Rotunda - Kalaanjali School of Indian Dance
Mar 15, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM
Overture Center - Rotunda Stage

Madison's Big Sing
Mar 15, 10:00-11:00 AM
MYArts - Starlight Theater

Early Childhood Resource Fair and Wild Rumpus
Mar 15, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
Black Hawk Middle School

St.Patrick's Family Fun Day
Mar 15, 11:00 AM-4:00 PM
Brennan's Market

Baby & Toddler Storytime
Mar 19, 9:30-10:30 AM
Central Library

Art Club for Families - Design a Treasure Box
Mar 19, 4:00-5:30 PM
Goodman South Madison Library

Kids in the Rotunda - Birds of a Feather
Mar 22, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM
Overture Center - Rotunda Stage

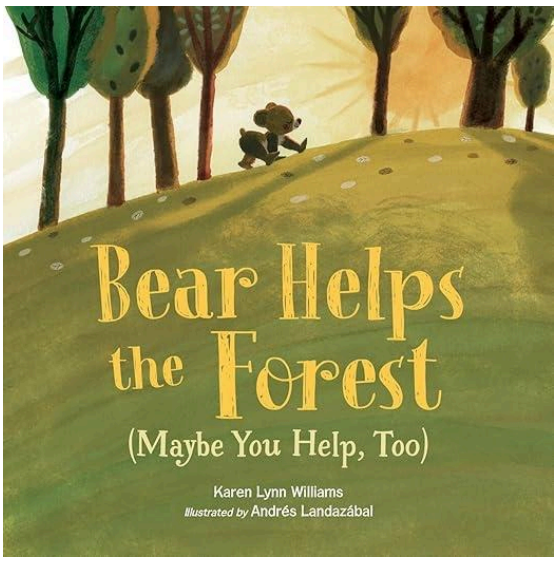
Scenic Stroll
Mar 23, 1:00-2:00 PM
UW-Madison Arboretum - Visitor Center

Wiggles and Words Multi-Age Storytime
Mar 24, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM
Goodman South Madison Library

Kids in the Rotunda - Madison Ballet

Mar 29, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM
Overture Center - Rotunda Stage

Kids in the Rotunda - Tom Pease
Apr 5, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM
Overture Center - Rotunda Stage



Book of the Month: *Bear Helps the Forest (Maybe You Help, Too)*

Bear loves jumping in leaf piles, but fall playtime ends with winter hibernation. When Bear wakes up she realizes it'll be a while—through spring and summer—till the leaves will fall again. While she waits, she learns about the constant work the forest does to renew her playground—and how she helps. Alongside Bear squishing through springtime mud, chomping on summer dandelions, and stretching in the early fall sun, readers will see how the forest changes with every season.

Read Aloud Storytime

Craft of the Month: Fruit Loop Craft & Snack Necklaces

Making Fruit Loop bracelets and necklaces is a fun and engaging activity, helping children develop fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. Kids string colorful cereal onto yarn, creating their own edible jewelry. This activity also encourages creativity, pattern recognition, and counting as they explore different color sequences. Plus, it's a tasty way to practice patience and focus while carefully stringing the cereal!

Learn More

Chef's Corner

Peanut Butter Banana Roll Up

Mix peanut butter and honey in a small bowl then spread the mixture over the tortilla, being careful not to tear it.

Place the banana toward the bottom of the tortilla, then roll tightly. Slice into pieces for a tasty snack.

Ingredients:
2 tbsp peanut butter or sunflower seed butter
1 tsp honey
1 8-inch tortilla
1 peeled banana

Recipe from eatingwell.com

Answer:

What kind of garden does a baker have?

A flour garden!

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Office of Child Care & Family Resources at UW-Madison | 611 Eagle Heights, Room 148 | Madison, WI 53705 US

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