



BADGERBUZZ

Discover events, resources, and activities for UW families

[Homepage](#)

[Child Care](#)

[Financial Resources](#)

[Events](#)

[Giving](#)

Here's what's buzzing this October!

October is here, bringing fresh opportunities to connect, learn, and care for yourself and your family. From Baby Play Group and parenting classes to open houses and community conferences, there are plenty of ways to get involved this month. We're also highlighting benefits open enrollment, dependent care FSAs, and flu and COVID-19 vaccines through University Health Services—support to keep you and your family thriving.

Dates & Reminders

- **Wednesdays 10-11:30** - [Baby Play Group](#)
- **10/9, 10/21, and 10/23** - virtual [parenting classes](#)
- **10/31** - Employee benefits open enrollment deadline

LITTLE CHILDREN, BIG DEFENSES!

VIRTUAL PARENTING CLASS



REGISTRATION
OPEN NOW

10/21 Virtual Parenting Class: Little Children, Big Defenses

As a parent, you know that kids get sick...a lot! This is both a frustrating and normal part of childhood. Learn the difference between general and specific immunity, how a child's immune system develops in the first five years of life, and how to reduce risk of infection and support the immune system. Open to students and fac/staff!

[Register for the virtual class here!](#)

Flu and COVID-19 Vaccines available for students and employees!

There are seven vaccine clinics during the month of October through University Health Services. Appointments are open to students and employees. Register for your appointment today!

[Learn more and register here!](#)



OPEN HOUSE

AT LITTLE CHICKS LEARNING ACADEMY



OCTOBER 14TH
5:30 - 7:00 PM



Open House at Little Chicks Learning Academy!

Join us for an Open House at UW network child care center, Little Chicks Learning Academy, on Tuesday, October 14, from 5:30–7:00 PM. Families and educators are invited to explore classrooms, learn about the curriculum, tour the **KidsKare** back-up care space, and ask questions.

[Learn more here!](#)

Benefits Open Enrollment and Dependent Care FSA Deadline: 10/31

Benefits Open Enrollment for UW employees is underway starting 10/6! Don't miss your chance to review your options and enroll in a Dependent Care FSA before the October 31 deadline. Learn more and explore your choices at the link below.

[Learn more here!](#)



FATHERS IN FOCUS CONFERENCE 2025



SATURDAY, OCT. 18 • MADISON AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Fathers In Focus Conference is on October 18th - open to all!

Fathers in Focus is a free conference where fathers, mentors, coaches, and allies from across Wisconsin gather to learn, support each other and strengthen their roles in their families and communities. Check out the agenda, read about the speakers, or register at the link below!

[Learn more or register here!](#)

Child Care Openings

The following open spots within the [UW-Madison Child Care and Education System](#) are current as of 10/1/25.

[Eagle's Wing Child Care](#)

- open spots in the morning program (open 7:30-12p each day) for **ages 2-4**

[UW Child Development Lab](#)

- (2) open spots in the **4K** program

[Creative Learning Preschool](#)

- (1) opening in the **4K** program
- full and part-time openings for **ages 2-3**

[The Playing Field Midtown](#)

[Bernie's Place](#)

- (1) open morning spot for **age 3**
- (1) open full-time spot for **age 3**
- (2) open morning spots for **age 2**, beginning October 27

[Middleton Early Childhood Center](#)

- several openings for **age 3**

[Preschool of the Arts](#)

- (4) open spots in **4K** program
- (3) open spots for **age 3**

- (1) open spot for **age 2**
- (2) open spots in the **4K** program

Meeting House Nursery School

- (5) open spots in afternoon program (1pm-4pm) for **age 3**
- full and part time openings in **4K** program

- (1) open spot for **age 2.5**

Little Chicks Learning Academy

- (1) open spot for child **born in 2025**
- (3) open spots for children **born 8/2024-12/2024**
- (1) open spot for child **born 6/2023-1/2024**

Satellite Family Child Care System

Family child care programs offer care in their own home in small group settings. UW-Madison partners with Reach Dane Satellite Family Child Care System to connect UW families to licensed programs across Wisconsin.

Fill out this form to receive a list of family programs with openings, or contact Laura Simkin, at lsimkin@reachdane.org.

UW Research Studies Seeking Children & Families

Help UW-Madison researchers explore child development, family well-being, and more. Opportunities vary and may involve surveys, activities, or visits, often with compensation for your time.

Brain Imaging and Language Development in Infants with Down Syndrome

Dates: ongoing

Time commitment: Approximately 2 hours

Compensation: \$100 gift card

Eligibility: parents and their children with down syndrome between 1 and 24 months old

Description: The Developing Brain Imaging Laboratory at the Waisman Center is recruiting parents of children with Down Syndrome who are between 1 and 24 months old. We would like to invite you and your child to participate in a study to learn more about brain and language development during the first two years of life.

Contact: developingbrain@waisman.wisc.edu

Contact the lab to learn more

Neonatal Hypoxic/Ischemic Encephalopathy (HIE) Study on Child Development

Dates: ongoing, dependent on participant scheduling availability

Time commitment: 2-3 hours

Compensation: \$200 gift card

Eligibility: children ages 4-18 years, who are generally in good health

Description: UW–Madison's Neurology Department is studying how children with a history of neonatal hypoxic/ischemic encephalopathy (HIE) and a normal brain MRI grow and develop. Children will complete tests of memory, attention, reading, and other abilities, plus a physical and neurologic exam. Parents will meet with a pediatric neurologist to discuss their child's health, development, and history, and complete questionnaires on mood and behavior.

Contact: Jessica Kania, Project Coordinator at kania@neurology.wisc.edu or (608) 265-5074

Contact the lab to learn more

October Family-Friendly Events

Special Events

Fall Fest

Recurring Events

Growing Voices Music Class

October 3rd, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Aldo Leopold Nature Center

Moon Over Monona Terrace

October 3rd, 7:00 - 10:00 PM
Monona Terrace

Oak Bank's Great Pumpkin Giveaway

October 4th, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Oak Bank, 5951 McKee Rd, Fitchburg

Dia de Futbol

October 4th, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Breese Stevens Field

Family Nature Walk

October 5th, 1:30 - 2:30 PM
UW Arboretum

KOGA Yoga

October 10th, 10:30 - 11:15 AM
Pinney Library

Kids in the Rotunda: Monkey Business Institute

October 11th, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, & 1:00 PM
Overture Center Rotunda Stage

Spooky Science: Playing with Pigments

October 18th, 10:30 - 11:30 AM
Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Family Nature Program: Rocks Rock!

October 19th, 1:30 - 3:30 PM
UW Arboretum

Sensory Friendly Halloween

October 24th, 4:30 - 7:00 PM
Madison Children's Museum

Kids in the Rotunda: Wayne the Wizard

October 29th, 4:00 PM & 5:00 PM
Overture Center Rotunda Stage

Wednesdays, 10:30 - 11:30 AM
October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Lakeview Library

MCM Free Thursday Evenings

Thursdays, 4:00 - 8:00 PM
October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Madison Children's Museum

Matilda, The Musical

Various days & times
October 4, 5, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19
Overture Center - The Playhouse

Wiggles and Words Multi-Age Storytime

Mondays, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
October 6, 13, 20, 27
Goodman South Madison Library

Multi-Age Storytime

Mondays, 10:30 - 11:15 AM
October 6, 13, 20, 27
Meadowridge Library

Storytime for the Very Young

Tuesdays, 10:00 - 10:30 AM
October 7, 14, 21, 28
Sequoia Library

Little Sprouts

Fridays, 10:15 - 11:15 AM
October 11, 17, 24, 31
Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Winnie the Pooh - Children's Theater

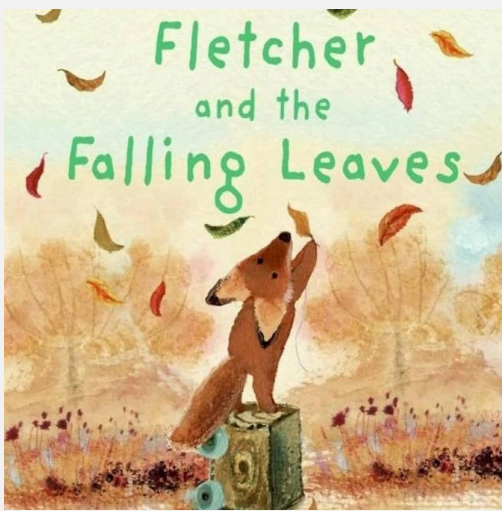
Various days & times
October 11, 12, 16, 18, 19
Starlight Theater at MYArts

Baby Time

Mondays, 10:30 - 11:15 AM
October 20, 27
Alicia Ashman Library

Book of the Month

Craft of the Month



Fletcher and the Falling Leaves

As the autumn season sets in, Fletcher is very worried his beautiful tree has begun to lose all of its leaves. Whatever Fletcher attempts to do to save them, it's simply no use. When the final leaf falls, Fletcher feels hopeless... until he returns the next day to a glorious sight. A tender, uplifting tale about acceptance and hope for the future.

[Read Aloud Storytime](#)



Crayon & Watercolor Leaf Rubbings

This craft combines leaf rubbings with crayon and watercolor to create vibrant, textured art. Children explore nature by collecting leaves, then practice fine motor skills as they reveal patterns with crayons. Adding watercolor enhances creativity and color mixing. It's a simple, calming activity that encourages observation, artistic expression, and discovery.

[Learn More](#)

Chef's Corner: Pumpkin Muffins

This simple pumpkin muffin recipe is great for breakfast, snacks, or even dessert! A great seasonal treat for all ages.

Ingredients:

- 15 ounce can of pumpkin puree
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup milk or plant based milk
- 1 1/4 cups brown sugar, lightly packed
- 1 3/4 cups all purpose flour
- 1 tbsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp ground nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp ground ginger
- 1/4 tsp ground cloves
- optional: 1 cup chocolate chips, raisins, dried cranberries, or chopped walnuts

Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F and lightly grease a muffin tin.
2. In a large mixing bowl, add pumpkin, oil, milk, and brown sugar. Mix until smooth.
3. Sift the flour, baking powder, salt, and spices over the wet mixture. Mix using a large wooden spoon until combined.
4. Fold in chocolate chips, nuts, or dried berries if using.
5. Fill the muffin tin and bake for 22-25 minutes, until a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out clean. Enjoy!

Recipe from [noracooks.com](https://www.noracooks.com)



Badger Buzz Newsletter from UW–Madison's Office of Child Care and Family Resources shares monthly announcements, resources, events, child care openings, and research opportunities for UW families. **Subscribe or update your subscription preferences here.**

If you enjoy reading our newsletter, please consider making a gift to support our mission.

Make a gift

Keep in touch!



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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email & social marketing for free!