



Office of Child Care and Family Resources Monthly Newsletter

BADGERBUZZ

Discover events, resources, and activities for UW families

[Homepage](#)

[Child Care](#)

[Financial Resources](#)

[Events](#)

[Giving](#)

Welcome back to campus, UW families!

Dear UW Families,

A new academic year brings fresh beginnings, exciting possibilities, and countless opportunities to learn, grow, and connect. The [Office of Child Care and Family Resources \(OCCFR\)](#) is here to walk alongside you, supporting your journey wherever it may lead. Whether it's help [finding quality care](#) and [campus lactation rooms](#) or [family-friendly events and parenting education](#), we're committed to helping your family thrive at UW–Madison. Madison is also a wonderful place to raise a family, with endless opportunities for fun and connection—discover them with our guide to [Raising a Family in Madison](#).

Here's to a year filled with growth, connection, and joy—for you and your family.

Warmly,
[Cigdem](#)

Director, Office of Child Care and Family Resources

Dates & Reminders

- **OPEN NOW** - Fall [Child Care Tuition Assistance Program](#) (CCTAP) Application
- **September 3** - First day of fall semester
- **September 10** - First [baby play group](#) session
- **September 25** - [Child Care and Family Resources @ UW–Madison](#) Info Session



Free Fall Parenting Classes

OCCFR's free parenting class series is open to UW–Madison employees, students, and their spouses/partners, offering practical tools to support child development, strengthen family well-being, and navigate parenting challenges.

[View Class Schedule and Register!](#)

Baby Play Group is back!

Join us each Wednesday in a calm, welcoming space where babies play and parents connect, learn, and gain guidance on child development from Dr. Laura Froyen. Open to all UW–Madison students, employees, spouses, and partners.

[Register once for the whole semester!](#)



Saturday Care at Little Chicks

Need weekend child care? OCCFR's KidsKare program at Little Chicks Learning Academy is once again offering discounted Saturday care throughout the fall semester. This flexible, hourly option provides families with reliable back-up care when they need it most.

[Learn more and sign up!](#)

Free Two-Day Soccer Open House

Kids ages 18 months – 9 years will have a blast at Lil' Kickers—a FREE sample class run by Keva's talented, high-energy coaches. Parents and children are invited to attend this fun-filled event to try a free class, meet the coaches and learn more about the program!

[Learn more & register!](#)



Child Care Openings

The following open spots within the [UW-Madison Child Care and Education System](#) are current as of 9/1/25.

Eagle's Wing Child Care

- 4 spots open in the **half day program** for ages 2-4 years

Creative Learning Preschool

- 2 FT/PT spots open for age 2
- 1 FT/PT spot open for age 3

Middleton Early Childhood Center

- FT spots open for age 3

Isthmus Montessori Academy

- 3 spots open in the 4K program

Meeting House Nursery School

- Spots open in the 4K program
- PT openings for age 3 (afternoons)

The Playing Field East

- 2 spots open for ages under 2 years
- 4 spots open for age 2
- 4 spots open for ages 3-5

The Playing Field Midtown

- 2 spots open in the 4K program

Little Chicks Learning Academy

- 1 spot open for children born in 2025
- 2 spots open for children born Sept-Dec 2024
- 2 spots open for children born Feb-Aug 2024
- 1 spot open for children born June '23-Jan '24

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.

Parenting amid Intimate Partner Conflict

A Focus Group study in Collaboration with DAIS

Dates: Now through December 30th (subject to change depending on volume of interest)

Time commitment: Approximately 90 minutes

Compensation: \$25 gift card plus a meal and child care during the group

Eligibility: Parent or primary caregiver who has experienced conflict with a partner

Description: These focus groups are designed to learn about individuals' experiences with intimate partner conflict in the context of parenting. It will include a brief questionnaire followed by a 60-90 minute group discussion covering topics such as: parenting styles, support services, resilience, and the challenges of raising a child while experiencing partner conflict. Groups will be held at Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS) in Madison.

Contact: reachlab@psych.wisc.edu or (608) 620-3170

[Fill out interest form](#)

Child Brain Imaging Development Study

Dates: Ongoing

Time commitment: 3-4 hours

Compensation: \$50

Eligibility: Infants and toddlers 0-2 years of age

Description: The purpose of this research study is to develop new approaches to study brains with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) with the overall goal of improving imaging studies of infants and young children. Specifically, we aim to create a more pleasant experience by making the process faster, quieter, and less sensitive to motion. The new methods may eventually help with the diagnosis and monitoring of diseases.

[Fill out interest form](#)

September Family-Friendly Events

Special Events

Family Nature Walk

September 7, 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
UW Arboretum

Children's African Story Hour

September 8, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Pinney Library

Chinese Story Time

September 13, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Sequoia Library

Art Club for Families: Watercolor Painting

September 20, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Monroe Street Library

11th Annual Diaper Dash 5K Run/Walk

Recurring Events

Little Sprouts

September 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Olbrich Botanical Gardens

MCM Free Thursday Evenings

September 11, 18, 25
4:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Madison Children's Museum

Baby Time

September 8, 15, 22
10:30 AM - 11:15 AM
Alisha Ashman Library

KOGA Yoga

September 8, 15, 22, 29

September 20, 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM
McKee Farms Park

Family Nature Program: Bluebirds

September 21, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM
UW Arboretum

Kids in the Rotunda: Black Star Drum Line

September 27, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM
Overture Center Rotunda Stage

10:30 AM - 11:15 AM
Meadowridge Library

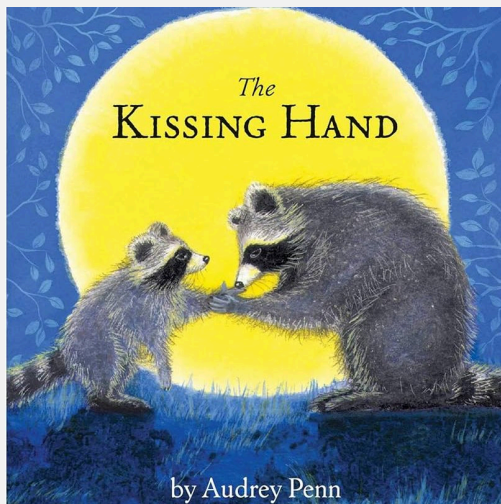
Wiggles & Words Multi-Age Storytime

September 8, 15, 22, 29
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Goodman South Madison Library

Storytime for the Very Young

September 16, 23, 30
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Sequoia Library

Book of the Month

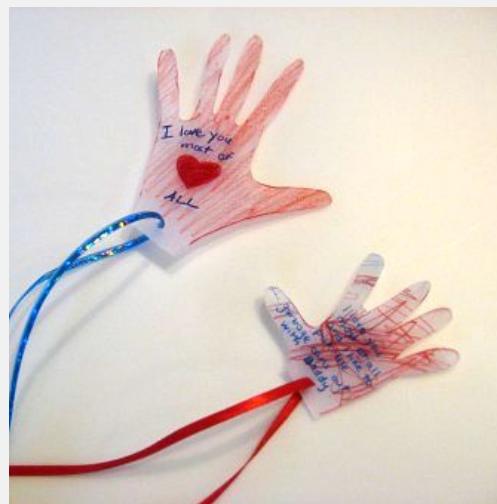


The Kissing Hand

As the school year begins, *The Kissing Hand* is a comforting story that helps ease children's separation anxiety. In this classic, young Chester Raccoon feels nervous about starting school until his mother shares a special family secret, the kissing hand, to remind him of her love wherever he goes. This tale reassures children that even when apart, the bond with their caregivers remains strong.

[Read Aloud Storytime](#)

Craft of the Month



Kissing Hand Charm Craft

This month, make your own Kissing Hand charm that your child can carry with them to school! This simple but meaningful activity encourages kids to decorate their own personal handprint. This hands-on project is not only comforting during back-to-school transitions, but also helps build fine motor skills and family connection. It's a perfect heartfelt family activity.

[Learn More](#)

Chef's Corner: DIY Snack Boxes

Skip the store-bought packs and try making your own homemade snack box! These kid-friendly boxes are versatile and easy to customize—perfect for picky eaters. Let your child choose their favorites, from crackers and cheese to fruits, veggies, or even fun dips. Not only is this a playful way to involve kids in mealtime, but it also gives them a sense of independence as they build their own combinations. Best of all, they pack beautifully into a lunchbox for school or on-the-go.

An easy formula to follow for DIY lunchables: two proteins, two vegetables, one grain, one fruit, and one dessert.

Ingredients:

- sliced turkey
- sliced cheese
- crackers
- carrot sticks
- red pepper sticks
- grapes
- snack-size cookies

Instructions:

1. Cut turkey and cheese slices into roughly the same size as the crackers.
2. Cut carrots into small sticks.
3. Slice red peppers into small sticks.
4. Assemble lunch in a bento-box style container with segments!

Recipe from eatingonadime.com



From the whole OCCFR team, have a great start to your semester, Badgers!

- Gail, Perri, Cigdem, Lucy, and Jaime

Badger Buzz Parent Support Newsletter from UW–Madison's Office of Child Care and Family Resources shares monthly announcements, resources, events, activities, and research opportunities for UW families. Stay informed about parenting support, child care options, and family-friendly opportunities on campus and in the community.

*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!