



Office of Child Care and Family Resources Monthly Newsletter

BADGER BUZZ

Discover events, resources, and activities for UW families

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Welcome to a new year, Badgers!

Welcome back to campus as we begin a new semester! As we settle into winter routines and look ahead to the months to come, this issue is full of opportunities to support your family's growth, learning, and connection. Inside, you'll find registration information for spring parenting classes and baby play groups, reminders about upcoming conferences and programs, and updates on child care and early education options for the year ahead. As always, we're also sharing family-friendly activities, seasonal inspiration, and ways to stay engaged with our campus and community. We're glad you're here and wish you a smooth and supported start to the semester.

Dates & Reminders

- Spring '26 **KidsKare** application open
- 1/5/26 - **CCTAP** Coverage Begins
- 1/16/26 - OCCFR tabling at **ISS Resource Fair**
- 1/29/26 - OCCFR **Parenting Class**

Lactation Space Feedback Survey



Help us improve our campus lactation spaces!

OCCFR and our partners at UW Environmental & Occupational Health have recently completed an audit of campus lactation spaces, and now we'd love to hear from you! If you use these rooms for pumping or nursing, please share your experience in our brief survey. Your voice is the most important tool we have to ensure these spaces are comfortable, functional, and truly supportive of your needs. Submit feedback by Jan. 31.

[Submit lactation room feedback!](#)

Spring 2026 OCCFR Parenting Classes: Registration open now!

The Spring 2026 schedule of OCCFR's Parenting Classes is live! This semester's classes feature a variety of topics, including handling tantrums and meltdowns, the importance of play, the research behind childhood screen use and balancing screen time for children, and parenting spirited children. Check out & register for classes today!

[Learn more and register!](#)

PARENTING CLASSES

Spring 2026



RAISING WISCONSIN'S CHILDREN

February 4, 2026 | 9 am - 4 pm | Virtual

Raising Wisconsin's Children Conference 2026 is on February 4th

Register today for this free virtual conference! The theme of this year's sessions is Helping Children Thrive When Life Gets Tough. Learn skills and practical tools from experts that will help your children cope with challenges, build resilience, and grow through hard times.

Date & Time: February 4, 2026, 9am - 4pm

Registration Deadline: February 2nd, 2026

[Learn more & register here!](#)

2026 Badger Precollege Registration

Get ready for a summer of innovative learning with UW–Madison Badger Precollege! Designed for students entering grades 5–12, these programs spark curiosity and expand academic interests through classes in engineering, computer science, business, music, art, law, and more. **Applications open January 12, 2026**, and classes fill quickly—explore your options now and apply early to secure your spot for Summer '26.

[Explore Badger Precollege Classes](#)



Registration Opens January 12



Isthmus Montessori Academy 2026-27 applications open now!

Applications are now open for the 2026–2027 school year at Isthmus Montessori Academy (IMA), a high-quality early childhood program serving UW–Madison families and the community. IMA provides Montessori education emphasizing child-led learning, independence, and curiosity in a nurturing, inclusive environment. Applying early is encouraged due to limited availability.

[Learn more and apply!](#)

Baby Play Group Registration Open

Registration is open for Spring Baby Play Group with Dr. Laura Froyen, parenting consultant and child development expert. Infant sleep specialist Dr. Amber Evenson joins on 2/11, 3/11, and 4/8. Designed for UW parents with babies ages 0–18 months, this group offers a welcoming space to ask questions, connect with other parents, and support your baby's early social development through guided play and conversation. Register once and join weekly on Wednesday mornings!

[Register for Spring Baby Play Group](#)



Child Care Openings

The following open spots within the [UW-Madison Child Care & Education System](#) are current as of 12/23/25.

Child Development Lab

- 2 spots in 4K open for 2025-26

Eagle's Wing Child Care

- One Tues/Thurs opening in 3 year full day room
- Openings in the half day morning program for kids ages 2-4

Waisman Early Childhood Program

- 4 openings in preschool classroom

Bernie's Place

- Openings for 2 and 3 year olds

Creative Learning Preschool

- Full-time and part-time for children with birthdays from 9/2022 to 2/2023
- Full days on Monday and Tuesday for children with birthdays from 3/2024-8/2024
- One full-time opening in our 4K program

Little Chicks Learning Academy

- 1 opening for child born in 2025, starting in January

Meeting House Nursery School

- Four part-time openings for 3-year-olds, Mon-Fri from 1-4p

Middleton Early Childhood Center

- Several openings in the older 3's classroom (children who will turn 4 before 9/1/26)

The Playing Field East

- 2 infant openings (under 1 as of 9/1/25)
- 3 toddler openings (over 1 and under 2 as of 9/1/25)
- 2 openings in the 2 year old room (over 2 and under 3 as of 9/1/25)
- 2 openings in the preschool room (over 3 and under 4 as of 9/1/25)

The Playing Field Midtown

- Two 4K openings
- One 2 year old opening

Preschool of the Arts

- 3 openings in 4K program

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.

Help Us Understand Bladder Bowel Dysfunction (BBD) in Kids (At-Home Study)

Dates: Ongoing

Time commitment: Estimated to be 1 to 1.5 hours. All activities are completed at home.

Compensation: \$50 for participation

Eligibility: Children ages 4-17, toilet-trained, either healthy (no symptoms) or have symptoms of BBD

Description: The Pediatric Urology team at UW–Madison is studying how the gut, bladder, and brain may be connected. We're inviting parents and guardians of both healthy kids and those with BBD symptoms like constipation, diarrhea, or urinary accidents to join our study. Parents or guardians will first complete a brief online eligibility questionnaire. If the child is eligible, the caregiver will be contacted by the study team and asked to complete an online consent form. After consenting, caregivers will complete a short lifestyle and nutrition questionnaire and collect one urine and one stool sample from their child at home using study-provided kits mailed to their home. Approximately one year later, caregivers will be asked to complete a brief follow-up survey. All study activities are completed from home.

Contact: Marcela Ambrogio, Research Fellow, at ambrogio@urology.wisc.edu

[Learn more and check eligibility!](#)

January Family-Friendly Events

Special Events

Music with Junebug: New Year Edition!

January 2, 10:30 - 11:30 am
Madison Children's Museum

Sensory World Wonderland

January 4, 10:30 - 11:30 am
Madison Children's Museum

Family Nature Walk

January 4, 1:30 - 2:30 pm
UW Arboretum

Warner Family Fun Night

January 9, 5:30 - 7:30 pm
Warner Park Community Rec Center

KOGA Yoga

January 9, 10:30 - 11:15 am
Pinney Library

KEVA @ The Library

January 9, 10:00 - 11:00 am
Middleton Public Library

Kids in the Rotunda: David Landau

January 10, 9:30 am, 11:00 am, & 1:00 pm
Overture Center

Candlelight Hike

January 10, 4:30 - 7:00 pm
Aldo Leopold Nature Center

Read, Move, & Groove w/ The Little Gym

January 16, 10:00 - 10:30 am
Middleton Public Library

Kids in the Rotunda: Panchromatic Steel

Recurring Events

Baby Time

January 5, 12, 26
10:30 - 11:15 am
Alicia Ashman Library

Music Avenue

January 7, 21
10:30 - 11:00 am
Meadowridge Library

Lakeview Play Date

January 8, 15
10:00 - 11:30 am
Lakeview Library

MCM Free Thursday Evenings

January 8, 15, 22, 29
4:00 - 8:00 pm
Madison Children's Museum

Tots in Motion

January 12, 19, 26
9:15 - 10:00 and 10:15 - 11:00 am
Pinney Library

Children's African Story Hour

January 13, 20, 27
5:30 - 6:30 pm
Eagle Heights Community Center, Rm 135

Baby & Toddler Story Time (ages 0-2)

January 13, 20, 27
10:00 - 10:30 am
Monona Public Library

Toddler Playtime

January 13, 20, 27

January 17, 9:30 am, 11:00 am, & 1:00 pm
Overture Center

Candlelight Snowshoe Walk

January 17, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Warner Park Rainbow Shelter

Family Nature Program: Animal Signs

January 18, 1:30 - 3:30 pm
UW Arboretum

Groove & Glide - Rennebohm

January 23, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Rennebohm Park

Kids in the Rotunda: Magic

Morgan+Liliana

January 24, 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm
Overture Center

Groove & Glide - Olbrich

January 30, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Olbrich Park

10:30 - 11:00 am

Monona Public Library

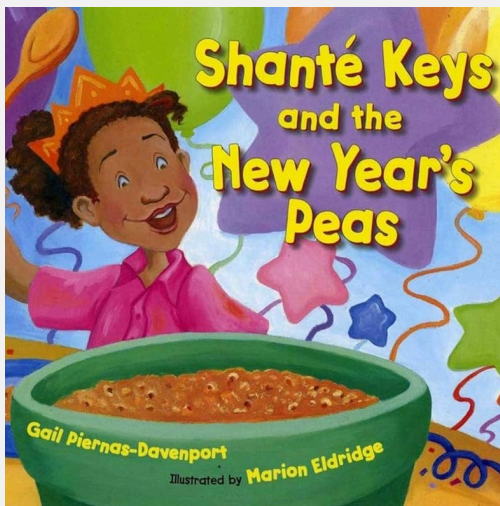
Multi-Age Storytime

January 14, 28
10:30 - 11:15 am
Meadowridge Library

Music with Junebug

January 16, 23, 30
10:30 - 11:00 am
Madison Children's Museum

Book of the Month



Shanté Keys and the New Year's Peas

Shanté Keys loves New Year's Day! But while Grandma fixed chitlins, baked ham, greens, and cornbread, she forgot the black-eyed peas! Oh no—it'll be bad luck without them! So Shanté sets out to borrow some from the neighbors.

[Read Aloud Storytime](#)

Craft of the Month



Paper Plate Star Twirler

These paper plate star twirlers are quick and easy to make using materials that you probably already have laying around at home! Make them in different colors and hang them up for some fun festive decor in your home.

[Learn More](#)

Chef's Corner: Snowflake Fruit Rice Cake 'Pizzas'

These Snowflake Fruit Ricecake Pizzas are a delightful and nutritious winter treat. Made with rice cakes, yogurt, and topped with blueberries arranged like snowflakes, they're both playful and satisfying. Add sprinkles for a winter look and enjoy!

Ingredients:

- rice cakes
- yogurt
- blueberries
- sprinkles (optional)

Instructions:

1. Use a spatula or spoon to spread yogurt over the rice cakes.
2. Arrange blueberries in the shape of a snowflake on top of the yogurt.
3. Add some sprinkles on top and enjoy!

Recipe from floridamilk.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.](#)**

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