



BADGER BUZZ

Discover events, resources, and activities for UW families

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April Badger Buzz

April is here, and with it comes longer days, warmer weather, and a full lineup of resources and highlights for UW–Madison families! We're spotlighting a two-part parenting class on power struggles and spirited children, sharing tips for navigating parenting in the digital age, and recognizing Autism Acceptance Month with helpful resources for families. We're also giving a shoutout to Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week and reminding you to get out and vote on April 7th. Along with the list of current child care openings, we're also promoting open student summer jobs at our Campus and Network Child Care Centers. Plus, in the spirit of Earth Day, our Book of the Month, Craft of the Month, and Chef's Corner all have a nature-inspired twist.

Dates & Reminders

- 4/13 - Summer CCTAP application available
- 5/4 - CCTAP Student Parent Graduation Celebration
- 5/4 - Summer KidsKare application available



POWER STRUGGLES & Spirited Children

A Two-Part Parenting Class for UW Families

Two-Part Parenting Class: Power Struggles & Spirited Children

Power Struggles & Spirited Children is for parents navigating life with strong-willed, sensitive, or high-energy children that sometimes leave you wondering, "Who is in charge here again?" In this two-part class, you'll learn how your child's unique temperament influences their behavior and how to respond in ways that reduce conflict, foster cooperation, and build connection. With practical tools and a compassionate lens, you'll leave better equipped to handle parenting a spirited child.

[Learn more & register here!](#)

Digital Parenting Decoded

Are you looking for guidance on how to manage your family's technology use? **Children and Screens**, a resource from the Institute of Media and Child Development, is an excellent resource for parents seeking evidence-based advice. From toddlers to teens, this non-profit offers practical "Parenting Tip Sheets" and expert webinars on social media, gaming, and healthy sleep. It's a great way to stay informed about the latest research while getting actionable advice to help your kids thrive.

[Learn more](#)

PARENTING RESOURCES for family technology use



Autism Acceptance Month A P R I L



Autism Acceptance Month

April is Autism Acceptance Month, a time to celebrate the diverse ways that children see and interact with the world. Whether you're navigating a new diagnosis or looking for ways to foster your child's unique strengths, here are some local and statewide resources to help your child thrive!

- **Birth to 3 Program:** Early intervention and developmental support for infants and toddlers.
- **Watch Me Grow:** UW–Madison program for communication and social play (ages 0-4).
- **Waisman Center:** Clinical care and diagnostic services for developmental disabilities.
- **Wisconsin Wayfinder:** A guided starting point to navigate state resource networks.
- **Parent to Parent of Wisconsin:** One-to-one peer support with families on similar journeys.

Are you ready to vote on April 7?

Ensuring a pluralistic, democratic society is a fundamental part of UW–Madison's mission. We take seriously our responsibility to promote civic engagement, helping our students have a voice in the democratic process by providing them non-partisan, content-neutral information about elections for educational purposes only. Learn about how to register to vote, ways to vote, and other election day info at vote.wisc.edu.

[Visit BadgersVote site to learn more](https://badgersvote.org)





Celebrate Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week!

Recognizing the many ways graduate and professional students contribute to the campus community, UW–Madison celebrates **Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week** from April 6-10. Faculty, staff, and students can recognize graduate and professional students who make an impact in their worlds through the **appreciation week Kudoboard**. Graduate and professional students, join your peers for a fun break over coffee, trivia, and other activities during **appreciation week events!**

[Learn more and celebrate!](#)

Child Care Openings

The following open spots within the [UW-Madison Child Care and Education System](#) are current as of 4/1/26.

Child Development Lab

- (2) openings in 4K program

Eagle's Wing Child Care

- Openings in summer camp for kids in going into kindergarten through 2nd grade; monthly sessions in June, July, and August
- Openings in half-day (AM) program for ages 2-4

Bernie's Place

- (1) full-time infant opening in May

Meeting House Nursery School

- Fall openings in two-year, three-year, and 4K programs

Middleton Early Childhood Center

- (4) openings for 4-year-olds starting 4K next school year

The Playing Field East

- (4) openings for age 1 as of 9/1/25
- (1) opening for age 2 as of 9/1/25
- (1) opening for age 3 or 4 as of 9/1/25

The Playing Field Midtown

- (1) opening for age 3
- (1) opening for age 4

Preschool of the Arts

- (5) openings for ages 4-5 for summer

Now Hiring! Student Summer Jobs & Internships

Gain hands-on experience and build your resume working with our youngest Badgers!

Explore open student teaching positions and internships at our Campus and Network Child Care Centers available this summer:

Bernie's Place

- Full-time substitute teacher to work with all ages.
- Hourly wage: \$10
- Contact director to learn more or apply: Amy Welk, welk1958amyl@gmail.com

Child Development Lab

- Hiring for student assistants (all majors) and internships (HDFS majors only)
- Hourly wage: \$15
- [Learn more and apply](#) – positions will be posted by mid-April

Middleton Early Childhood Center

- Assistant Teacher
- Hourly wage: \$17-\$21
- [Learn more or apply](#)

The Playing Field (East)

- Infant-Toddler Assistant Teacher
- Hourly wage: Up to \$20/hour
- [Learn more or apply](#) or email info@PlayingFieldMadison.org

The Playing Field (Midtown)

- Early Childhood Intern (open to Junior and Senior HDSF majors only)
- Hourly wage: \$18.00
- Learn more or apply on [Handshake](#)

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.

Child Brain Imaging Development Study

Dates: Ongoing

Time commitment: 3-4 hours

Compensation: \$50

Eligibility: Infants and toddlers 0-2 years of age, or expecting parents

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.

Contact: Maren Schimek, Research Specialist, relaxmri@bi.wisc.edu or (608) 516-4558

[Fill out interest form](#)

April Family-Friendly Events

Special Events

Madison Ballet Special Projects Storytime

Thursday, April 2, 10:00-10:45 AM
Monona Public Library

Toddler Dance Party

Thursday, April 2, 10:00-10:30 AM
Sequoia Library

Night Creature Search

Friday, April 3, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Lussier Family Heritage Center

Art Sparks!

Friday, April 3, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Fitchburg Library

Kids in the Rotunda: Trinity Irish Dance Academy

Saturday, April 4, 9:30AM, 11 AM, 1 PM
Overture Center

Family Nature Walk

Sunday, April 5, 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
UW Arboretum Visitor Center

Warner Family Fun Night

Friday, April 10, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Warner Park Community Recreation Center

Keva at the Library

Friday, April 10, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Middleton Public Library

Recurring Events

Multi-Age Storytime

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
10:30 AM - 11:15 AM
Meadowridge Library

Baby & Toddler Storytime (0-3)

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
9:30 AM - 10:15 AM
Central Library

MCM Free Thursday Evenings

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

Little Sprouts

April 3, 10, 17, 24, 25
10:15 AM - 11:15 AM
Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Children's African Story Hour

April 7, 14, 21, 28
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
University Apartments Community Center
Rm 135

Baby Storytime

April 14, 21, 28
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Lakeview Library

Kids in the Rotunda: Limanya Drum and Dance

Saturday, April 11, 9:30AM, 11 AM, 1 PM
Overture Center

Arboretum Animals Exploration Station

Saturday, April 11, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM
UW Arboretum Visitor Center

Dream Park Construction Vehicle Fun

Thursday, April 16, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Dream Park - Winnequah Park

Kids in the Rotunda: Duke Otherwise

Saturday, April 18, 9:30 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM
Overture Center

Family Class: Birding 101

Saturday, April 18, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Family Nature Program: Love the Earth

Sunday, April 19, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM
UW Arboretum Visitor Center

Spring Fest

Sunday, April 19, 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Eagle Heights Community Garden

Kids in the Rotunda: Lullaby Project

Saturday, April 25, 9:30 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM
Overture Center

Bird & Nature Adventures: Do You Hear a Frog?

Saturday, April 25, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Aldo Leopold Nature Center

Bird & Nature Festival 2026

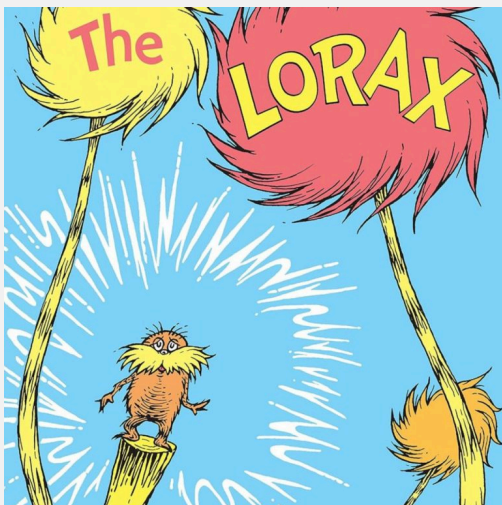
Sunday, April 26, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Warner Park Community Recreation Center

Curious Critters Storytime

Monday, April 27, 9:30 AM - 10:15 AM
Aldo Leopold Nature Center

Book of the Month

Craft of the Month



The Lorax

This month, we're bringing back a classic read that teaches children (and adults!) about respecting the earth: *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss. Join the fun as the Lorax speaks for the trees in this magical tale. This vibrant story unfolds with the famous Truffula trees, the grumpy Once-ler, and the unforgettable message about caring for the environment.

[Read Aloud Storytime](#)

Earth Day Upcycled Sun Catchers

Just in time for Earth Day, this suncatcher craft gives single-use plastic packaging (like berry containers or takeout lids) a second life. Cut circles from the clear plastic, decorate them with permanent markers, and hang them from a twig with twine. A simple, low-cost reminder that what usually gets tossed can be turned into something worth keeping!

[Learn More](#)

Chef's Corner: Sneaky Healthy Dirt Cups

This sneaky-healthy twist on classic pudding "dirt cups" is a simple and fun treat for kids! The creamy chocolate pudding is made with a secret ingredient: sweet potatoes! Top it off with chocolate cookie crumbs and gummy worms for an earthy snack.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup cooked sweet potato, skin removed
- 3 tbsp cocoa powder
- 2-3 tbsp maple syrup
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 tsp water or milk
- 3/4 cup crushed chocolate cookies, such as Oreos
- a few gummy worms

Instructions:

1. Cook the sweet potato until it is soft enough to mash, and remove skin.
2. In a blender or food processor, add sweet potato, cocoa powder, maple syrup, vanilla extract, and water or milk, then blend until smooth. Alternatively, you can mash and mix ingredients together in a bowl using the back of a fork.
3. Split the pudding into snack-sized jars and refrigerate until cooled.
4. Crush chocolate cookies and sprinkle the cookie crumbs over top of the pudding.
5. Add a few gummy worms on top and enjoy!

Recipe adapted from realfoodwithjessica.com



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

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