



BADGER BUZZ

Discover events, resources, and activities for UW families

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May Badger Buzz

May is here, and with it comes warmer weather, longer days, and plenty of ways to get outside and enjoy the season with your family. This month, we're sharing local farmers markets and weekend activities to explore as temperatures rise, family nature walks around campus, and resources for getting your bikes road-ready — including programs for little riders. We're also spotlighting our 2026 Outstanding Student Parent Support Award recipient, and rounding things out with children's story hour, our usual child care openings, recipes, crafts, read-aloud picks, and reminders about CCTAP and KidsKare applications. Something for everyone this month!

Dates & Reminders

- Summer [Child Care Tuition Assistance Program](#) (CCTAP) - **Apply by 6/26**
- **May 4:** Summer [KidsKare](#) application opens
- **May 3-9:** [Children's Mental Health Week](#)
- **May 6:** [World Maternal Mental Health Day](#)
- **May 8-9:** [Commencement](#)

Outstanding Student Parent Support Award recipient announced!

OCCFR is thrilled to announce that **Jake Brunkard**, associate professor of genetics, is the recipient of the 2026 [Outstanding Student Parent Support Award](#). Presented annually to a UW–Madison faculty or academic staff member who has demonstrated **exceptional commitment to supporting student parents**, the award recognizes those who create an environment of understanding, flexibility, and encouragement. Brunkard was honored for his open, student-centered approach to mentorship — meeting parenting students where they are and ensuring they have the space and support to thrive in both their academic and family lives.

Share the news on [Instagram](#) or [LinkedIn](#)!

[Read more](#)





Farmers' Market Family Fun

The [Dane County Farmers' Market](#) is back on the Square every Saturday! Beat the crowds by getting there early, then take the kids to the [Madison Children's Museum](#) or a [nearby park](#) to burn some energy. Or find more [Madison Farmers' Markets](#) near you!

Madison in Bloom: Best Family Spring Nature Walks

Spring is here! Grab the kids and explore Madison's best spots for fresh air and flowers. Stroll through the [UW Arboretum](#) to see lilacs and magnolias, or enjoy the trails at [Picnic Point](#). For vibrant spring bulbs, visit the free stroller-friendly paths at [Olbrich Botanical Gardens](#), or stop by [Allen Centennial Garden](#), a quiet campus gem perfect for a quick family walk.



Get Bike-Ready this May

Celebrate **National Bike Month** this May! Find high-quality, affordable used bikes at the annual [Bikes for Kids Wisconsin](#) sale on May 9 from 10 am - 3 pm, or regular hours throughout the summer. Get a free safety check and tune-up at [Wheels for Winners](#) or stop by the [University Bicycle Resource Center](#) for free tools and expert repair advice. Finally, check out the upcoming [Learn to Bike](#) classes for kids ages 5-9 at the Lussier Family Heritage Center (\$30/person, limited bikes and helmets available).

Children's International Story Hour

Check out this exciting new collaboration between UW–Madison and the Pinney Library, featuring global storytelling, music, and hands-on crafts led by guest speakers. This program is free, open to all ages, and a perfect way for families to experience new cultures without leaving the library. **Don't miss the last few sessions this May!** After a summer break, the program will resume in the fall.

[See full spring schedule!](#)



Child Care Openings

The following open spots within the [UW-Madison Child Care and Education System](#) are current as of 4/29/26.

Child Development Lab

- One 2-year-old opening for 2026-2027

Eagle's Wing Child Care

- Openings for ages 2-4 years in half day program for Summer and Fall
- Openings for ages 5-8 in High Flyers Summer day camp program

Bernie's Place

- Two openings as of Fall, Mon-Fri mornings, for children age 2 by 9/1/26
- Three openings as of Fall, Mon-Fri mornings, for ages 2.5+ by 9/1/26

Creative Learning Preschool

- One opening as of now for child age 2 (born Sept. '23 - Feb. '24)
- Three openings as of June 15 for children age 3 (born Sept. '22 - Feb. '23)
- Four openings as of June 15 for children age 3 (born Sept. '21 - Aug. '22)

Little Chicks Learning Academy

- Three openings for ages 3-5
- Five openings for age 2
- Two openings for children born in 2025
- Five openings for children born in 2026, starting in September

Meeting House Nursery School

- Fall openings for ages 2, 3, and 4

Middleton Early Childhood Center

- Openings for infants starting June 15
- Openings in Fall 2026 4K program

Preschool of the Arts

- Six 4-year-old openings for Summer
- Two school-age openings for Summer
- Three 2-year-old openings for Fall
- Two 2.5-year-old openings for Fall
- Two 3-year-old openings for Fall

May Family-Friendly Events

Special Events

Preschool Storytime with Pogie the Yogi

Friday, May 1, 10:00 - 10:30 am
Sequoia Library

UW Family Gardening Day

Saturday, May 2, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
DC Smith Greenhouse, Allen Centennial Garden, Steenbock Library, & Wisconsin Energy Institute

Family Nature Walk

Sunday, May 3, 1:30 - 2:30 pm
UW Arboretum Visitor Center

Dance Around the World for Preschoolers (Week 1)

Wednesday, May 6, 10:30 - 11:15 am
Central Library

Warner Park Family Fun Night

Friday, May 8, 5:30 - 7:30 pm
Warner Park Community Recreation Center

Family Class: Mythical Garden Creatures

Saturday, May 9, 10:30 am - 12 pm
Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Recurring Events

Little Sprouts

May 1, 8, 15, 29
10:15 - 11:15 am
Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Kids on the Farm

May 4, 11, 18, 25
10:00 - 11:30 am
Schumacher Farm Park (Waunakee)

Baby Time

May 4, 11, 18
10:30 - 11:15 am
Alicia Ashman Library

Children's African Story Hour

May 5, 12
5:30 - 6:30 pm
University Apartments Community Center, Rm 135

Cooking with Chef Lily

May 5, 19
5:00 - 6:00 pm
Lakeview Library

Storytime

May 6

We Read with our Hands: Featuring the**National Federation of the Blind**

Saturday, May 9, 10:30 - 11:30 am
Central Library

Read a Book and Learn to Cook

Monday, May 11, 10:30 - 11:15 am
Meadowridge Library

Children's African Story Hour: Ethiopia

Monday, May 11, 4:00 - 5:00 pm
Pinney Library

**Dance Around the World for Preschoolers
(Week 2)**

Wednesday, May 13, 10:30 - 11:15 am
Central Library

Family Nature Program: Flower Power

Sunday, May 17, 1:30 - 3:30 pm
UW Arboretum Visitor Center

Movie at The Glen: Goonies

Sunday, May 17, 4:00 - 7:30 pm
The Glen Golf Park

Art for Little Ones

Thursday, May 21, 10:30 - 11:30 am
Lakeview Library

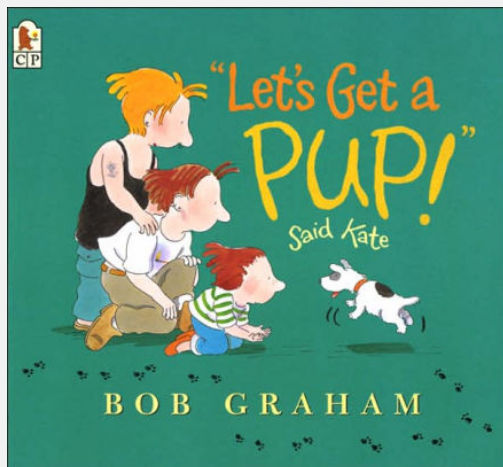
Bird & Nature Adventures: Critter Tracks

Saturday, May 23, 10:00 - 11:30 am
Aldo Leopold Nature Center

10:30 - 11:30 am
Hawthorne Library

MCM Free Thursday Evenings

May 7, 14, 21, 28
4:00 - 8:00 pm
Madison Children's Museum

Book of the Month**"Let's Get a Pup!" Said Kate**

Kate and her mom and dad know they want Dave the moment they see him. But then they see Rosy, who is old and gray and broad as a table. How can they take home just one dog when there are so many great animals who need a home?

Craft of the Month**Spring Colors Scavenger Hunt**

Nature is filled with an array of colors, especially at this time of year! This simple Egg Carton Color Match Nature Hunt is a fun, engaging activity that merges the vibrancy of the outdoors with a tactile, hands-on learning experience.

Chef's Corner: Flower Sandwich Skewers

These easy and healthy flower sandwich skewers are a great springtime snack for kids of all ages! They're customizable to meet everyone's preferences, and have several steps that are great for little chefs to help out with in the kitchen. Pack them in a lunchbox or eat the "bouquet" right away!

Ingredients:

- Soft bread
- Nut butter of choice, such as peanut butter, almond butter, sunflower butter, or chocolate hazelnut spread
- Fruit spread of choice, such as strawberry preserves or grape jelly
- Fruit of choice, such as bananas, strawberries, or grapes
- **Materials:** kebab skewers, flower-shaped cookie cutter

Instructions:

1. Using a flower shaped cookie cutter, cut an even number of flowers from the sandwich bread.
2. Cut fruit into thin slices.
3. Spread the nut butter and jam on to the bread and assemble several mini sandwiches.
4. Assemble the skewers by sliding on a few pieces of fruit and a few sandwiches per skewer.

Recipe from busylittlechefs.com



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