



BADGERBUZZ

Discover events, resources, and activities for UW families

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Welcome Back, Badger Families!

Welcome back to campus and to a new semester at UW–Madison! As our campus comes alive again, we are excited to welcome student parents, faculty and staff families, and all of the children who are such an important part of our Badger community.

This season is a chance to reconnect, discover new resources, and find fresh ways to make family life on campus a little easier and more enjoyable. Throughout this issue, we've gathered opportunities for families of all ages and stages—from parenting programs and baby play groups to child care updates, community events, and activities to enjoy together.

We hope these resources help you feel informed, connected, and supported as the semester unfolds. Whether you are settling into a new routine, exploring new programs, or simply looking for ideas to enjoy time together, we are here to help families navigate campus life and make the most of the many opportunities available across UW–Madison and the greater community.

We are so glad you are here. Here's to a semester filled with connection, discovery, meaningful moments, and plenty of Badger spirit. Welcome back, Badger families!

The OCCFR Team

Lucy, Perri, Cigdem, Jaime, and Gail

Dates & Reminders

- Fall [CCTAP application](#) is open
- [Fall Parenting Class Registration](#)
- [Baby Play Group Registration](#)
- September 7: Labor Day (No classes)
- September 9-10: [Student Organization Fair](#)



BACK-TO-SCHOOL & CARE



Back-to-School & Care: Easing Separation Anxiety and Meltdowns

Whether your little one is starting child care or school for the first time or returning after a long summer break, major schedule shifts often spark separation anxiety, drop-off tears, and evening meltdowns. When young nervous systems get overwhelmed by change, it shows up in their behavior. Join us to learn practical strategies for easing anxieties, establishing new routines, and fostering a smooth and positive transition back into structured care or school environments. We'll explore developmental insights and provide tools to help your child thrive, making this shift a little easier for everyone.

[Register here!](#)

UW Homecoming 2026 Coloring Contest

Calling all young artists! 🎨 Thank you for participating in the UW Homecoming 2026 Coloring Contest. We can't wait to see your colorful creations! Download the [coloring sheet](#) and [submit](#) your masterpiece for a chance to win an unforgettable Homecoming experience.

Submission deadline: Tuesday, Sept 15
Winners announced: Monday, Sept 21

Three lucky winners will be selected as **Mini Marshals** of the UW Homecoming Parade on **Friday, October 2**. Winners will also receive **three free tickets** to the Homecoming football game on **Saturday, October 3**, enjoy a special **on-field experience at halftime**, and have the chance to **meet Bucky Badger!**

[Learn more & get coloring sheet](#)

COLORING CONTEST





Sign up for Fall Baby Play Group!

Join Dr. Laura Froyen, early childhood development specialist, in a calm and welcoming space where babies can explore and play while parents learn and chat. Meet other parents, ask questions, and learn about your baby's development. Open to all UW-Madison students, employees, spouses and partners. Sign up once for the semester and drop by as often as you'd like!

[Learn more & register](#)

Child Care Openings

The following openings within the [UW-Madison Child Care and Education System](#) are current as of 9/1/26.

Eagle's Wing Child Care

- (1) spot for age 2 on **M/W/F**
- Spots in **half-day** program for ages 2-4

Waisman Early Childhood Program

- (3) spots for children born between December 2023–September 2024

Bernie's Place

- (1) spot in 4K program
- (1) spot for age 3, **full-time**
- (1) spot for age 3, **two mornings/week**
- (1) spot for age 2, **full-time**
- (1) spot for age 2, **M-F mornings**

Isthmus Montessori Academy

- (2) spots in 4K program

Little Chicks Learning Academy

- (4) spots for children born in 2026
- (2) spots for children born in 2025
- (3) spots for children born in 2024

Meeting House Nursery School

- (3) spots in 4K **morning** program
- (5) spots in 4K **afternoon** program
- (1) spot in 4K **full-time** program
- (6) spots for age 3, **T/Th mornings**
- (4) spots for age 3, **M-F afternoons**
- (1) spots for age 2, **M-F mornings**
- (4) spots for age 2, **T/Th mornings**

Preschool of the Arts

All spots open as of September 8

- (1) spot for age 2
- (1) spot for age 2.5
- (3) spots for age 3
- (1) spot for age 4

September Family-Friendly Events

Special Events

Card-Making for Grandparents Day

Thursday, September 3, 10:00–11:00 am
Fitchburg Public Library

Live from the Wonderground: Black Star Drum Line & Forward! Marching Band

Friday, September 4, 5:00–8:00 pm
Madison Children's Museum

Taste of Madison

Saturday–Sunday, September 5–6

Recurring Events

MCM Free Thursday Evenings

September 3, 10, 17, 24
4:00 – 8:00 pm
Madison Children's Museum

Multi-Age Storytime (5 and under)

September 9, 16, 23, 30
10:00 – 10:30 am
Pinney Library

Fairytales and Fanciful Moments

2:00 pm–9:00 pm and 11:00 am–7:00pm
Capitol Square

Family Nature Walk

Sunday, September 6, 1:30–2:30 pm
UW Arboretum

Kindermusik

Friday, September 11, 10:00–10:30 am
Middleton Public Library

Saturday Storytime: Grandparents Day

Saturday, September 12, 10:00–10:30 am
Middleton Public Library

Kids on the Prairie: Seeds and Cider

Sunday, September 13, 10:30–12:00 pm
Holy Wisdom Monastery

ArtStudio Kids!

Monday, September 14, 10:00–11:00 am
Monona Public Library

Nature Everywhere Madison: Birding with Babies

Tuesday, September 15, 10:30–11:15 am
Lakeview Library

Warner Family Fun Night

Friday, September 18, 5:30–7:30 pm
Warner Park Community Recreation Center

Apple Sensory Stations

Friday, September 18, 11:00–12:00 pm
Fitchburg Public Library

Trucks and Treasures

Saturday, September 19, 9:00 am–12:00 pm
Goodman Pool Parking Lots

Family Nature Program: Fun with Fungi

Sunday, September 20, 1:30–3:30 pm
UW Arboretum

September 11, 18, 25
10:00 – 11:15 am
Meadowridge Library

Baby & Toddler Storytime (birth to 3)

September 23, 30
9:30 – 10:15 am
Central Library

More Special Events

Movie at The Glen: Secret Life of Pets

Sunday, September 20, 4:00–7:00 pm
The Glen Golf Park

Storybook Music Project with Utka Ensemble

Tuesday, September 22, 10:00–10:45 am
Monona Community Center

Imagination Center at Reindahl Park Ribbon Cutting

Friday, September 25, 3:00–8:00 pm
Imagination Center at Reindahl Park

Kids in the Rotunda: Angela Puerta Kids Band

Saturday, September 26, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, and 1:00 pm
Overture Center

Bird & Nature Adventures

Saturday, September 26, 10:00–11:30 am
Aldo Leopold Nature Center

Curious Critters Storytime

Monday, September 28, 10:00–10:45 am
Aldo Leopold Nature Center

Children's African Story Hour

September 29
5:30 – 6:30 pm
University Apartments Community Center,
Room 135

Book of the Month

Craft of the Month



Pigeon HAS to Go to School!

Why does the Pigeon have to go to school? He already knows everything! And what if he doesn't like it? What if the teacher doesn't like him? What if he learns too much!? Kids will love read-aloud time with the silly Pigeon in this book that prepares kids for the first day of school.

[Read Aloud Storytime](#)



School Bus Photo Frame

Turn craft sticks into an adorable school bus photo frame! Paint wooden craft sticks yellow, assemble them into a bus shape, then add craft-foam wheels and a headlight with buttons or gems. Slide a first-day-of-school photo into the "windows" for a keepsake.

[Learn More](#)

Chef's Corner: Homemade Lunchables

Lunchables are a favorite among school-aged children, not to mention easy and customizable. Simply choose one item from each category and pack it into a segmented container for your child to assemble at school.

Proteins (choose 1-2)

- sliced deli meat & sliced cheese
- salami & cheese cubes
- mini peanut butter & jelly sandwich squares
- hard-boiled egg & chicken nuggets
- taco meat & shredded cheese

Carb/Grain (choose 1)

- crackers or pretzels
- pita bread/pita chips
- mini tortillas
- mini muffins

Fruit and Veggies with optional dip (choose 2)

- apple slices (+ caramel dip)
- berries or grapes
- melon cubes
- baby carrots (+ ranch dressing)
- sliced cucumber (+ hummus)

Dessert (choose 1)

- cookies (such as Oreos or Chips Ahoy)
- chocolate (such as Hershey's Kisses or M&Ms)
- fruit snacks
- rice krispie treat

[See more homemade lunchable inspiration here!](#)

Recipe from livesimply.me



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Keep in touch!



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