



Office of Child Care and Family Resources Monthly Newsletter

BADGERBUZZ

Discover events, resources, and activities for UW families

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October Badger Buzz

Fall is here, and this month's Badger Buzz is packed with ways to support your family through the season. Don't miss important reminders about the upcoming CCTAP application deadline and employee benefits open enrollment. We're also celebrating 100 years of the Child Development Lab, sharing free winter gear resources and no-school day camps, and inviting you to join our October parenting classes. Plus, cozy up with this month's read-aloud, *Pete the Cat: Falling for Autumn*, then make a handprint autumn tree and bake some apples together!

Dates & Reminders

- 10/1 - [Little Chicks Open House](#)
- 10/8 - OCCFR @ [HR Benefits Fair](#)
- 10/16 - Fall [CCTAP](#) application deadline
- 10/30 - [Employee benefits open enrollment](#) deadline



October Parenting Classes

Parenting brings plenty of big questions, and our October classes are a chance to dig into a few of them with other families.

- October 6: **Teaching Kids Personal Safety and Boundaries**
- October 22: **From Parental Burnout to Balance**
- October 22: **Raising Wisconsin's Children: T(w)eens, Screens, and Social Media** (from UW Extension)

[Learn more and register](#)

Celebrating 100 Years of the Child Development Lab

Congratulations to the Child Development Lab, one of UW–Madison's **three campus centers**, on turning 100! Founded in 1926 as a tiny school of fewer than a dozen children, it was one of the first university-based preschool labs in the country. Today, it cares for more than 70 children from 6 weeks old through 4K and helps train hundreds of UW–Madison students each year.

[Read more](#)

Almost Time to Bundle Up: Free winter gear for children

Colder weather is on the way! These local resources can help keep your little ones warm:

- **The Clothing Center** in Stoughton: Saturday, Oct. 3, 9:00 AM–12:00 PM
- **Coats 4 Kids**: Friday, Oct. 23, 4–6 PM
- **St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Vouchers**: \$30/child for Dane County residents. Call 608-278-2920 to apply.
- **Half-Pint Resale**: Oct. 10, 8 AM–6:30 PM and Oct. 11, 8 AM–1 PM

[Explore resources](#)

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness and remind families that support is available. If you or someone you love is experiencing abuse, you don't have to face it alone. Explore the **Reporting, Rights, & Legal Aid** and **Emergency Support** sections of our Family Resource Library to find survivor and crisis resources for UW families.

[Explore resources](#)



No School? No Problem!

Planning ahead for early release and no school days? These Madison-area day camps have you covered:

- **Aldo Leopold Nature Center:** Vacation Day Programs
- **Wisco Kidz Place:** School's Out Day Camp
- **Sprouts Nature School:** No School Days Sessions
- **Keva:** Adventure Camp - A School's Out Day Camp
- **Neighborhood House:** Off Day Program
- **Monroe Street Arts Center:** Day Off Camps
- **UW RecWell:** Youth Day Camp (Oct/Nov camps full—**Subscribe** to RecWell's email list for future openings)

DISCLAIMER: The above content is provided for informational purposes only. The links included are offered to support independent exploration. Inclusion of the above programs does not imply regulation, oversight, or endorsement by the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Child Care Openings

The following openings within the [UW–Madison Child Care and Education System](#) are current as of 9/29/26.

Eagle's Wing Child Care

- (1) spot in full-time 4K program
- (1) spot for age 2, MWF
- Spots in half-day program for ages 2–4, either MWF or M–F

Waisman Early Childhood Program

- (3) spots for age 2, born 12/2023–9/2024

Creative Learning Preschool

- (1) spot in full-time 4K program

Isthmus Montessori Academy

- (2) spots in 4K program

Little Chicks Learning Academy

- (4) spots for kids born in 2026
- (2) spots for kids born in 2025
- (4) spots for kids born in 2024
- (3) spots for kids born in 2022-2023

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

- (4) spots for age 3
- (1) spot for age 2
- (3) spots for age 2.5 starting Feb. 2027

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.

Infant Learning Lab Language Study

Dates: Ongoing

Time commitment: Approximately 30 minutes

Compensation: Gift or cash compensation

Eligibility: Children ages 6 months to 5 years

Description: Are you curious about how your child is learning language? We invite you and your child(ren) aged 6 months to 5 years of age to participate in a research study at the UW–Madison Infant Learning Lab (featured in the Netflix documentary "Babies"). Participation involves a single 30 minute session at the Waisman Center, next to the UW Hospital (free parking provided). You will be with your child the entire time. The visit is scheduled at your convenience. You will receive a thank-you gift or cash for participating. Sign up using the button below or learn more about the [Infant Learning Lab here](#).

Contact: Jenny Saffran, Principal Investigator, babies@waisman.wisc.edu

[Fill out interest form](#)

Learning in Two Languages by Bilingual Children, with and without Language Impairment

Dates: Ongoing

Time commitment: Two 60–90-minute sessions. Caregivers will also be asked to complete several questionnaires, which may take up to 60 minutes.

Compensation: \$15 for completing the first session, \$20 for completing the second session

Eligibility: Children ages 4–8 who regularly hear both Mandarin and English

Description: We are interested in how Mandarin-English bilingual children develop their language skills and how their language experiences shape their language development. Participation includes two virtual sessions scheduled at times convenient for your family. Caregivers will fill out questionnaires about their child's developmental history and language experiences. During the sessions, children will play games, look at pictures, and watch videos in Mandarin and English.

Contact: Language Acquisition & Bilingualism team, labchineselearn@waisman.wisc.edu

[Send interest email](#)

October Family-Friendly Events

Special Events

Renaissance Faire at Lakeview Park

Saturday, October 3, 1:00 – 4:00 pm
Lakeview Park, Middleton

Kids in the Rotunda: Black Star Drum Line

Saturday, October 3, 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm
Overture Center

Tasty Tales: A Family Program

Saturday, October 3, 10:30 – 11:30 am
Madison Central Library

Family Nature Walk

Sunday, October 4, 1:30 – 2:30 pm
UW Arboretum

Indigenous Heritage Celebration

Thursday, October 8, 5:00 – 8:00 pm
Madison Children's Museum

Kids in the Rotunda: Madison Ballet

Saturday, October 10, 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm
Overture Center

Recurring Events

MCM Free Thursday Evenings

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
4:00 – 8:00 pm
Madison Children's Museum

Toddler Music with Corey Mathew Hart

October 1, 8, 15, 22
10:00 – 10:30 am
Sequoia Library

Little Sprouts

October 2, 10, 16, 23, 30
10:15 – 11:15 am
Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Preschool Storytime

October 2, 9, 16, 23
10:00 – 10:30 am
Sequoia Library

Multi-Age Story Time

October 6, 13, 27
10:30 – 11:15 am

Falling for Art

Saturday, October 10, 2:00 – 3:30 pm
Pinney Library

Kids on the Prairie: The Gift of Trees

Sunday, October 11, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Holy Wisdom Monastery

Wisconsin Science Festival

October 15–25
Statewide

Touch a Fire Truck and Ambulance!

Friday, October 16, 10:00 – 11:30 am
Monona Public Library

Kids in the Rotunda: Marvelous Michelle Bubble Lady Extraordinaire

Saturday, October 17, 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm
Overture Center

Hayrides & Hikes

Saturday, October 17, 1:00 – 4:00 pm
Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park

3rd Annual Wisconsin Weather Festival

Saturday, October 17, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Wisconsin Energy Institute

Family Nature Program: Mighty Migrations

Sunday, October 18, 1:30 – 3:30 pm
UW Arboretum

Kids in the Rotunda: Jerry Ensemble — A Year with Frog & Toad KIDS

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

Bird & Nature Adventures

Saturday, October 24, 10:00 – 11:30 am
Aldo Leopold Nature Center

Imagination Center Library

Special Events

Lee • Canta • Crea | Read • Sing • Create

Saturday, October 24, 10:00 – 11:00 am
Lakeview Library

Curious Critters Storytime

Monday, October 26, 10:00 – 10:45 am
Aldo Leopold Nature Center

Halloween Sensory Stations

Monday, October 26, 10:00 – 11:00 am
Fitchburg Public Library

Children's African Story Hour

Tuesday, October 27, 5:30 – 6:30 pm
University Apartments Community Center,
Room 135

Kids in the Rotunda: Karaoke for Kids with Sock Monkey Pyramid

Wednesday, October 28, 4:00 pm, 5:00 pm
Overture Center

Trick or Treat Downtown!

Wednesday, October 28, 3:00 – 6:00 pm
State Street & Capitol Square

Warner Family Fun Night Halloween Celebration

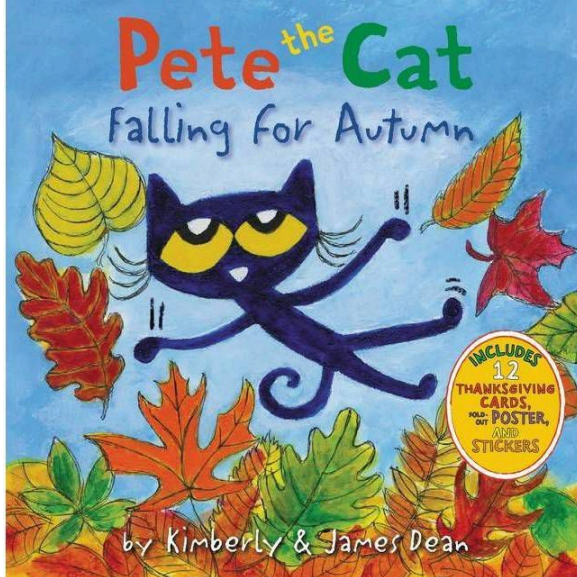
Friday, October 30, 5:00 – 7:30 pm
Warner Park Community Recreation
Center

Kids in the Rotunda: Wild Rumpus Circus

Saturday, October 31, 9:30 am, 11:00 am,
1:00 pm
Overture Center

Book of the Month

Craft of the Month



Pete the Cat: Falling for Autumn

Pete the Cat isn't sure about the changing of the seasons from summer to autumn. But when he discovers corn mazes, hay rides, and apple picking, Pete realizes there's so much to enjoy and be thankful for about autumn.

[Read Aloud Storytime](#)

Autumn Handprint Tree

Fall is a gorgeous, colorful season that never fails to get the creative juices flowing and if you're looking for an opportunity to explore simple color-mixing techniques within a seasonal theme, then this project is for you.

[Learn More](#)

Chef's Corner: Air Fryer Baked Apples

If you're looking for a super easy way to satisfy your sweet tooth, these air fryer apples will do it! These cinnamon-spiced baked apples made in the air fryer are naturally sweetened and totally give off cozy apple pie vibes. Try them on their own or with a scoop of vanilla ice cream!

Ingredients:

- 4 c apples, peeled and diced
- 2 tbsp butter, melted
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 2 tbsp maple syrup

Instructions:

1. Peel, core, and chop the apples into small pieces.
2. In a bowl, mix together the apples, melted butter, and cinnamon until all the apple pieces are coated.
3. Add the apples to the basket of the air fryer so they are spread evenly into a single layer.
4. Air fry the apples at 400°F for 12–15 minutes, shaking the basket halfway through.
5. Transfer apples to a mixing bowl, drizzle the maple syrup over the apples, and mix well.
6. Serve on top of oatmeal or waffles, in a yogurt parfait, with ice cream, or eat them plain!

Note: If you don't have an air fryer, try adding 2-3 TBSP water to the mixture and baking apples in the oven at 350° for about 15 minutes, stirring them halfway through baking.

Recipe from [wellfedbaker.com](https://www.wellfedbaker.com)



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