

The Children's Journal

News from Campus Child Care for parents, advocates and all who work to provide quality early care and education for children and their families.

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Director's Note



There is always lots of activity in campus child care centers, but this fall has been especially challenging. Directors have been involved in a number of issues ranging from emergency preparations to

ongoing discussions with community leaders on a collaborative 4-year-old kindergarten program with Madison Metropolitan School District. In addition, building renovations have begun at #39 University Houses to create a new child care center that will serve as a temporary home for the Preschool Lab and later provide additional child care capacity (with infant care!) to serve our campus. And, oh yes, there are those furlough days which have created challenges to staffing our operations while providing consistency of care for the children.

So many "other" activities can be a distraction from our real purpose—to be welcoming, warm, responsive and caring for all the little bodies that come into our centers every day. Maybe this fall is the year John moves up to the big kid room, or maybe this is the first year Sarah has been away from her parents' care. The children are looking for comfort and friends, some will even learn a new language, and parents are

looking for assurances that their child will be safe, loved and happy.

Whether child or parent, all come to us with expectations that the education and care we provide will be of high quality and that their needs will be considered, discussed and met. In the course of the year, our campus teachers create wonderful memories by providing play-based learning for children and opportunities for college students who want to learn child development. Some families are fortunate enough to receive a developmental portfolio from one of Julie Poehlman's student teachers who are learning about the art of observation and assessment. Or maybe campus partner Rob San Juan is stopping by to check on student volunteers who help the children with emerging literacy skills and could end up being that "special" person for a child with challenging behavior. Indoors or outdoors, our teachers' job is to set the stage for learning and healthy social and emotional development for all of the children. If you want to see just how it's done, call me for a tour. Maybe you'll see the "Amy Show" at Bernie's Place or catch Kristin Pape celebrating "hat day" with her group of preschoolers or go ice fishing with Kris Krystoviak at the Preschool Lab. The kids will tell you—the options for learning are endless!

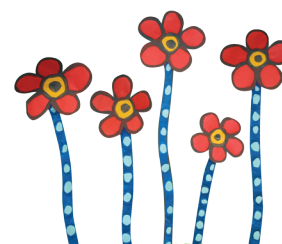
Lynn Edlefson, Director

Full Mailbox? Changes to Address?

You can help save a tree by receiving this newsletter via email! To change your subscription options, or to remove your name from our mailing list, please contact Connie Wilson at clwilson@wisc.edu.

UW-Madison wants to stay in touch with you. To update your contact information, which is maintained by the UW Foundation, please visit www.uwfoundation.wisc.edu/survey. To log on, use the ID number above your name on the newsletter mailing label. This informa-

tion is shared selectively with other campus units and the Alumni Association to ensure that alumni and friends information is consistent and accurate. Thank you!



Our mission and vision:

We envision creating model programs and services, based on research and best practice, that are affordable, available and of the very highest quality.



Thanks to Women in Philanthropy Again!

Thanks to the Women in Philanthropy, our office received another annual grant to support a sliding scale fee for faculty and staff who use Chicken Soup. Special thanks to Martha Taylor and Lori Rappe for their vision and leadership. Kudos to all!

Jean Manchester Biddick

Nancy Taylor Borghesi

Marcia Bradley

Debra Byars

Martha Casey

Virginia Duncan Gilmore

Joan Fortune

Caroline Fribance

Kathleen Gottschalk

Joan Greenwood

Marlene Hartzman

Gilda Hudson-Winfield

Christine Lodewick

Phyllis Lovrien

Barbara Manley

Ruth Nelson

Elly Pick

Joy Picus

Pam Ploetz

Margaret Schmidt

Kay Bohn Smith

Sharon Stark

Linda Stern

Carol Toussaint

Doris Weisberg

Lorna Wendt

Cheryl Weston

Charlotte Zieve

My Academic Achievement and Beyond *By Nola P. Walker, M.A.*

I was the fortunate recipient of the Child Care Tuition Assistance Program (CCTAP) when I was a student parent. CCTAP bridged the financial gap enabling me to be a full-time student. The CCTAP supplement allowed me to focus on classes and homework during the day while my child was at preschool, enabling me to be an interactive parent with my child in the evening. I completed my master's degree sooner than many of my peers without children (i.e. 2 years including summer sessions). After graduating, I obtained a two year 'post-master's research internship' that provided a full salary, benefits and rich experiences in my new field. Currently, I'm an academic librarian, a home owner, and working on my doctoral degree. Amazing for a single parent, or so 'they' say.

The added benefits of parent support services were critical in my ability to feel a part of the campus community. I participated in the weekly single parent's support group, child care information sessions, monthly parent topic luncheons, and special family program outings, as well as received listserv mailings. These supportive services really made me feel connected and fully integrated in the graduate campus community along with my child. We saw that we were not alone. We met a community of families with similar goals and made friendships that we probably wouldn't have otherwise due to the overwhelming size of UW-Madison's campus. The services created a network, a comfort that we were recognized, welcomed and valued.

There was no feeling of isolation, or being 'in it' by ourselves. We discovered a 'village,' which helped me in positively raising my child while advancing my academic goals. The content of the parent support sessions really played an important role in helping me understand my child's development. Who would have thought that UW-Madison would have such an impact in such a personal way?

Ultimately, CCTAP and the supportive services not only made the difference in making my vision a reality (i.e., obtaining my master's degree), but it also allowed my child to experience the benefits of a great preschool education conveniently located on campus. She used to say 'Mom, I go to college, too.' This program has helped instill in my child the 'assumption' and expectation of continuing her education through college one day. She's seen, experienced, and watched her mom transform through it. The Office of Child Care and Family Resources (OCCFR) is planting seeds for future generations. Now that's a way to truly invest in the future!



Nola and Willow Walker

OCCFR Alumni

OCCFR recently received this email from Ivy Williams, who received her MS in Rehabilitative Psychology and is now working at the North Carolina Division of Services for Deaf as a Hearing Specialist. When Ivy started at UW-Madison, her daughter Kennedy was only three months old, but she just recently turned seven years old!

Hi Ms. Edlefson,

I'm writing in response to the card I received from you regarding the donation I made for the child care resources. It is correct that I am an alumni of UW-Madison. I attended the university from 2002-2004 and was a recipient of CCTAP funds during those years.

I cannot express how grateful I am to UW-Madison for the wonderful years I spent

there obtaining my degree. But more specifically, the assistance I received from the Child Care Tuition Assistance Program played a major factor in my success. For many parents, particularly single parents like myself, finding and financing quality child care is one of the biggest stressors in life. CCTAP alleviated that stress for me. I have nothing but good thoughts and fond memories of UW-Madison. I will forever be indebted to UW-Madison for the assistance I received. You can always count on me for any future fund raisers for the child care programs!

Again, thank you for what you do and how you help. I'll never forget CCTAP and the supportive staff.

Notice, Wonder, Explore, Discover by Joann Laufenberg

At UW Preschool Lab, we are fortunate to have mature trees and a large variety of plants on our playground. Trees provide welcome shade on hot summer days, and a perfect home for our neighborhood squirrels. Wind chimes, vibrant flowers and a colorful hanging lizard add to the sensorial experiences for the children who play and learn in our gardens.

Science is a major focus of our preschool curriculum and the gardens provide many learning opportunities. Endless science topics, as well as our human connections to nature and to one another, are made possible through the gardens. The children prepare the soil, carefully place the plants into the holes, tap the soil around the plants and are ready to water. It is calming to children to discover the natural wonders and life cycles of plants and experience being a caregiver.

After planting the gardens this summer, some of the preschool children helped to construct and maintain a twig fence around one of the gardens. The low fence provided a visual cue for the toddlers to "go around the garden," and demonstrated a high level of concern for the plants and

peers. Gardening has enabled our preschoolers to learn and use kind reminders with the younger children about being gentle (with their fingers and feet) to preserve the garden.

Gardening offers children the opportunity to take a break from schedules and sometimes over-busy days. Being outdoors lessens the intensity of inside activities while supporting our connections to others. As a teacher, I often see higher energy children being able to be more reflective, calm and engaged with peers. This was just the case with "Charlie," an active boy who was sitting in the garden. A friend approached him and asked what he was doing. "Just checkin' it out," he replied calmly while he studied the leaf of a hosta. So, "just check it out" . . . gardening with children can be simple, constructive, and fun while providing some new ways of being together.

**There is a garden in every childhood
an enchanted place**

**Where colors are brighter the air softer and
the morning more fragrant than ever again.**

— Elizabeth Lawrence

We appreciate your
generous support!*

Student Child Care Scholarship Grants

Mr. Robert M. Fessenden &
Ms. Patricia K. Fessenden

Ms. Mary K. Hay-Boguszewski

Dr. Charles Meredith &
Dr. Janet Kay Bester Meredith

Mr. Peter Thompson &
Ms. Susette C. Thompson

Ms. Lisa L. Viegut

Connie L. Wilson Child Care Center Fund

Ms. Terri J. Reda

Mr. John H. Torphy

Ms. Stephanie J. Tutton

New Campus Child Care Initiatives

Evjue Foundation, Inc.

Dean Gary D. Sandefur &
Ms. Kathy Sandefur

Mr. John P. Stott &
Ms. Patricia R. Sandord

Classified Staff Child Care Grants

Mr. Gary D. Mitchell

Ms. Pat Laskey

Mr. John D. Wiley

Daisy Project

Mr. William J. Richner

Mr. Kendall G. Rouse &
Ms. Mary K. Rouse

*donations received April–
September 2009

Child Care Fundraiser Creates Conflict!

Just kidding; all ends well for Mo Bischof and Steve Lund who challenged each other in ticket sales for the Jazzin' event in June. Our Master of Ceremonies, Steve, has always been the front runner in ticket sales, but this year Mo won out on raffle sales. Steve managed to hang on to the top sales for concert tickets. The photos don't lie—they ended friends.

We owe more thanks to John Wiley, who sculpted and donated four trellises for the silent auction, helping to make this year's proceeds the largest ever. Our other fabulous "ticket team" members include Tonya Schmidt, Jan Wheaton, Lucy Mathiak, Seth Pollak, Barbara Lafferty, Gareth Green, Lindsey Stoddard Cameron, Joan Ershler, Jill Riley, Alison Rice, Debb Schaub and Amy Welk. Thanks to all our friends for supporting this event.



Want a child care center named after you?

Don't laugh—we'd love to talk with you about our new building initiative and how you and/or your family could be involved in a great project that will create much needed infant/toddler care on campus. Contact Connie L. Wilson (clwilson@wisc.edu), who will be happy to share the latest drawings and plans for the facility.

Or, to make a contribution online, go to <http://occfr.wisc.edu> and click on "Giving." We have four areas of work that need your support!

AIM Continues!

We received great news in August that our federally funded Access for Infants and Mothers (AIM) program was re-awarded for another four years. Since 1999, AIM has been assisting low-income undergraduate student parents with child care costs as a means to help them complete degree studies. And, the outcomes are remarkable! AIM boasts an 85% graduation rate and a 3.21 grade point average.

Gloria is an undergraduate single mother of Arion, now 12 months, who is enrolled at the Preschool Lab. In her second year with AIM, Gloria has become a favorite in the office, bringing the baby by to visit every few months to keep us informed of everyone's progress.

"I am able to manage everything without worrying about how I will afford child care," says Gloria, "and Arion loves his teachers!

They have helped me so much." The majority of student parents are enrolled in school full-time and still manage to work a few hours in addition to parenting. Both AIM and the Child Care Tuition Assistance Program (CCTAP) provide financial assistance to make the balance of work, school and parenting possible so that student parents can focus on their studies to make that long-awaited graduation date come even sooner. Gloria adds, "CCTAP and AIM have allowed me to focus my attention on my studies here at the university so that in three semesters, I will be graduating. This would not be possible without this generous financial assistance." Also, as a recipient of the AIM grant, Gloria participates in parent education programs to learn how to understand and promote Arion's development outside the classroom.

