

# 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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## OUR MISSION

The Office of Child Care and Family Resources promotes the academic and professional goals of the University of Wisconsin community through the administration of early education and family support programs.

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School of Education  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## Message from Cigdem



Every August at our annual welcome-back-to-campus event for student parents and their children, we feel the excitement of the approaching academic year. We celebrate together as families enjoy different activities: tie-dying t-shirts; family photos; yoga; and the distribution of backpacks filled with school supplies. Amid all this energy, we continue to find innovative ways to help UW families achieve their educational and professional goals. We look forward to another year of service and support.

Last spring, we were honored to have Governor Tony Evers at Jazzin'. He is one of my heroes, a true champion of children, families, and the power of public education. As a former teacher, principal, and Wisconsin's State Superintendent of Schools, Governor Evers has dedicated his life to helping children. Wisconsin is fortunate to have a governor with a firm commitment to making our state stronger by investing in children, families, and communities. Governor Evers' appearance at Jazzin' was one of several highlights. Remarks from School of Education leaders Dean Diana

Hess and Professor Beth Graue rounded out the evening. Next year's Jazzin' date is set; please mark your calendars for Thursday, April 16, 2020.

In other news, our office administers a mini-grant program for our three campus, six network child care centers, and Satellite staff and providers. Directors and teachers from these centers have an opportunity to apply for funding either to introduce a new child care initiative in their classroom or attend a professional development training, including conferences. During the last fiscal year, our office set a record, disbursing over \$43,000 in grants to improve the quality of child care in our early education system.

Finally, one of our longest-tenured campus center directors, Joan Ershler, who has been at the helm of the Waisman Early Childhood Program (WECPE), retired the first week of September. Joan has worked in the field of early childhood education and special education for forty years. In honor of Joan's years of dedicated service, please consider making a gift to the WECPE scholarship fund at this link: <https://www.waisman.wisc.edu/giving/wecpe-scholarship-fund/>. We will miss you, Joan!

## Child Care Network Snapshot: The Playing Field

The Playing Field opened in September 2015 with the unique mission of serving children living in poverty or experiencing homelessness alongside children from more affluent families. This approach benefits all children, allowing them to learn empathy, improve problem-solving skills, and embrace a diverse group of peers.

The program is built on the School Family Model, where all children can have their diverse needs met. To include children facing adversity, The Playing Field has had to rethink traditional practices of group child care, like adding a bathing and laundry area to the floorplan.

The Playing Field has been recognized across the state for trauma-informed practices. The

staff-to-child ratios are low and staff receive extensive training on social emotional learning. The curriculum focuses on self-regulation and learning to manage feelings and creates a foundation for Conscious Discipline practices. All children are cared for in an environment that prioritizes safety and emotional connections. Executive Director Abbi Kruse says, "What we have learned is that what is best practice for children impacted by trauma is really best practice for all children."

The Playing Field values its relationship with the university and welcomes interns from the School of Human Ecology each semester. Their partnership with OCCFR means that more university families are part of The Playing Field family.



## Jazzin' Sponsorship

### UW-Madison Sponsorship

- Office of the Chancellor
- Office of Human Resources/ Learning and Talent Development
- School of Education
- School of Human Ecology
- College of Letters & Science
- School of Pharmacy
- School of Veterinary Medicine
- University Housing
- University Relations
- University Ridge Golf Course
- UW Athletic Department
- UW Child Development Lab
- Waisman Early Childhood Program
- Wisconsin Union Theater

### Individual Donors

- Marlene Hartzman
- Jody Fisher
- Barbara Lafferty
- Jackee Leckwee
- Bill & Joan Richner
- Jean Suchomel
- Cigdem & Orhan Unal
- Paula Zipperer

### Community Partners

- Badger Balm
- Barb Farley
- Batch Bake House
- Bernie's Place
- Bill Scheer
- Black Earth Children's Museum
- Bonfyre American Grill
- Brasserie V
- Capital Acupuncture & Massage Therapy
- Cave of the Mounds
- Chicago South Loop Hotel
- Children's Theater of Madison
- Chocolaterian



## Child Care in the Big Ten: How Do We Stack Up?

A survey of child care services for faculty, staff, and student parents in Big Ten universities suggests that UW-Madison is one of the frontrunners. UW provides Child Care Tuition Assistance (CCTAP) to qualifying student parents through segregated fees and the federally-funded Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS). Faculty and staff have fewer options to defray the high cost of quality care for their children, but University Staff employees, especially those on the lower end of the pay spectrum and with an unexpected hardship, can apply for a child care scholarship funded by private gift dollars. Also, thanks to an ongoing gift from the Women's Philanthropy Council, our Kids Kare program, which offers access to reduced rates for back-up care, is a valuable amenity available to student parents, faculty, and staff.



The clear standout among Big Ten schools is the University of Michigan, which was the only one to make the cut in a recent ranking of top 15 colleges for students with children on Bestcolleges.com. At number ten, Michigan offers a Child Care Subsidy for undergraduate and graduate students.

For faculty and staff, there are child care tuition grants at UM-Ann Arbor Children's Centers. Comparable to our Kid's Kare program, faculty and staff pay reduced rates for back-up care through Kids Kare at Home.

Other Big Ten schools such as the University of Iowa, Penn State, and Purdue give discounted child care rates to student parents through subsidy programs such as CCTAP. Penn State, Michigan State, and Ohio State are the only other Big Ten schools with the CCAMPIS grant for low-income student parents. A total rewards program for students, faculty, and staff at Ohio State includes tuition to attend one of two campus centers based on a sliding-fee scale. In most cases, the administrative home to benefit dispersal is the Human Resources or a Work/Life office.

Overall, a campus unit dedicated to the oversight of child care and parent support services is unique to the Big Ten. We are fortunate to have the Office of Child Care and Family Resources on our campus.

Teri Stratton

## Farm to Early Childhood Education: Nourishing Healthy Habits



In an effort to promote healthy habits in children, two of our campus child care centers have planted gardens this past year. The Child Development Lab (CDL) has launched a wellness initiative focusing on three main elements: nutrition, gardening, and farm to table. While this program is still in its early stages, the organizers are excited to share more information about their plans and progress. Spurred on by the idea of "Farm to Early Childhood Education," teacher Jaclyn Schneider is researching how to make the system work at CDL.

With the support of Claudia Calderon, a CDL parent and a faculty member in the Department of Horticulture, the CDL has collaborated with two interns who helped plan and start the garden. Claudia has taught her young CDL students about different plants, when to harvest, and the overall maintenance of the garden. In the fall, the Bunnies make a trip to the farmers market to purchase apples for participating in the "Great Apple Crunch," a statewide event that brings Farm to School programs together.

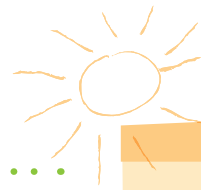
Under the watchful eyes of teachers Mao Thao and Asenna Kitina, Eagle's Wing Peace Garden serves as an inspiration for many

nature-related and culinary activities. Not only do children discover different varieties of fruits and vegetables, they also experiment with produce colors, textures, and cooking options. Eagle's Wing children have learned how to create a vegetable-based dye to use on canvas, and some of the most popular recipes in the Eagle's Wing kitchen using Peace Garden produce are zucchini bread, rhubarb muffins, and dill dip. At the end of the growing season, there is a harvest dinner for the entire Eagle's Wing community.

Early exposure to the growing process can yield many healthy outcomes for our youngest. Ideally, it will pique curiosity about the origin of food and the food chain, cultivate respect for the natural world, lead to a deeper understanding of the value of local food and farmers in their community, and promote greater engagement in their own health and well-being. These are important life lessons.



# The Challenges of a Student Parent: Meghan's Story



Student parents wear different hats in their pursuit of degree completion. They tend to their children and tend to their studies, but as Meghan Schroeder tells it, caretaking can become unexpectedly intergenerational. Meghan, who received a Student Child Care Scholarship grant, shares her story:

I am currently a master's of social work student at UW–Madison. I became unexpectedly pregnant in 2017, and I say unexpectedly because I was told at an early age that if I ever hoped to have children, I would need medical interventions. Our healthy son was born on August 1, 2018, three weeks before the start of classes. Without the help of CCTAP and other campus support programs, I would have had to drop out of school.

In February 2019, my mother was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Because she is still

undergoing medical treatment, I have had to take off a significant amount of time from work as she is retired and without transportation. This responsibility has put a huge strain on my family, my marriage, and the mental and physical health of everyone involved. With the assistance of CCTAP and an award from the Student Child Care Scholarship Fund, my worries have lessened both financially and emotionally. I was able to afford putting my son in quality child care while I attend to my mother's needs.

In closing, my son's birth and my mother's illness are significant life events, and the kind that can't be planned for. Without the Student Child Care Scholarship Fund and the generosity of donors to this fund, I would not be able to continue my studies towards a master's degree. I am forever grateful and thankful for this support.

*Meghan Schroeder*

- Circus World
- Comedy Club
- Daisy Café and Cupcakery
- delecTable
- Douglas Art and Frame
- Eagle's Wing
- Festival Foods
- Food Fight
- Gail Ambrosius
- Green Bay Packers
- Hilltop Supper Club
- Ian's Pizza
- Imperial Garden
- Jen Dittrich
- Kwik Trip
- Little Chicks
- Log Gables
- Longtable
- Lowlands Group
- Madison Mallards
- Manna Café
- Mike Avery
- Milwaukee Zoo
- Morgan's Shoes
- Mosquito Joe
- Nature's Edge Photography
- Nook
- Orange Tree Imports
- Pasture and Plenty
- Pick n' Save
- Preschool of the Arts
- Schwogler's
- Shedd Aquarium
- Smoky's Club
- Stephanie Stratton
- Stoughton Opera House
- Studio You
- Swim West
- Teri Stratton
- The Field Museum
- The Madison Concourse Hotel
- Towns & Associates
- Willy Street Coop
- Wisconsin Historical Foundation
- Woodman's

## Development News



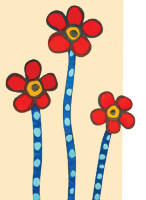
Jazzin' continues to grow in stature as an annual celebration of campus early childhood education. Governor Evers' appearance was a special bonus. His inspirational message about the vital role of early educators in the academic accomplishments of our children and the importance of investing in Wisconsin's early education system was powerful and validating. We owe the success of this event to many campus and community partners who make financial contributions and in-kind donations to Jazzin'. We are deeply grateful for their commitment.

Research has shown that investing in early childhood generates a high rate of economic return. A recent study by Nobel Laureate James Heckman also suggests that this investment has intergenerational implications. In *The Perry Project: Intergenerational Effects*, Heckman

examines life consequences for participants in the Perry Preschool Project, an experiment involving the provision of high-quality preschool to disadvantaged African-American children in the 1960s. The results of this study are compelling and demonstrate how access to high-quality early education can help break the cycle of poverty. Perry participants "had significant gains in personal and family life outcomes that provided their children with positive second-generation effects on education, health, employment, and civic life." The evidence is clear; quality early care and education must be an option for all children.

At UW–Madison, we do our best to take care of our youngest through our support of student parents, early education teachers, and University Staff employees. Our good work begins with you. Your gifts enable us to make a profound difference in the lives of campus families. Thank you for all you do to sustain us and please consider making a gift to Campus Child Care. The giving page on our website, <https://occf.wisc.edu/giving/>, provides descriptions and UW Foundation links to our five funds. As always, feel free to contact me with any questions about programs or to discuss how you can help with major gifts.

*Teri Stratton*



## Shout Out to Campus Child Care

A few years ago, my husband decided to go back to school. He settled on law school, which prompted our move to Madison, Wisconsin, a place we'd never been. With this new pursuit, we were starting from scratch: my job search, our home rental search, and our child care search. Thankfully, we stumbled upon the Office of Child Care and Family Resources website early on, and the stress from this crucial part of our move quickly dissolved. In one phone call to their office, I was able to learn about the child care landscape in Madison, get recommendations for providers, and most importantly, find out about the child care subsidies. Responses to my many questions always came quickly and made it clear that I had an ally who was just as concerned as I was with finding the best situation for our kids and our family.

We were able to get our three-year-old daughter into the Waisman Early Childhood Program on campus. This high-quality center would have been drastically outside of our single-income budget, but with the help of the child care tuition assistance, we were able to pay a fraction of the cost without sacrificing our daughter's needs. She's bright, creative, thoughtful, and fiercely independent, but has struggled with controlling her emotional responses to stress and transition. Thankfully, we were on this journey with some of the best early childhood educators in the area, who had the resources and experience to not just help her in the classroom, but help us as parents,

ensuring consistency in our support from school to home. Her growth this last year has been remarkable, and I can't imagine how things would have been at a center that didn't offer the same high-quality resources. We came here for my husband's education, but have found our daughter's growth to be the most impactful part of our move, and is a direct result of the efforts by the Office of Child Care and Family Resources.

*Jill Wood*



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