

April 2021 Family Badger Buzz



Welcome to our *Parent Newsletter!* Our goal is to keep UW-Madison parents connected and informed with happenings, resources, and parenting tips. Please feel free to reach out to us with any information that you would like to see posted. We are here to support you and your families!

Message from the OCCFR Director

We hope that you are in a healthy place and that spring delivers a sense of renewal after a difficult year. With the vaccine process underway, we can finally look forward to a brighter future for our families.

Our annual celebration of campus child care, Jazzin', would have taken place this month. Jazzin' is our major fundraiser whose proceeds assist our campus child care centers with critical operational costs. We're not able to hold the live event again this year. In its place, we are kicking off a special fundraising initiative in observance of the *Week of the Young Child*® (April 10-16). The purpose of this week is to focus the public spotlight on the needs of young children and to recognize the early childhood programs and dedicated early educators who work tirelessly to address those needs.

Over the past year, our campus centers have gone above and beyond to serve our youngest and their families. Still, it has been a balancing act with growing budget deficits, especially payroll shortages. In the words of one campus child care director, "COVID has taken its toll and stretched all of us thin."

How can you help? We are asking that you consider making a gift to one of these two funds: ***New Campus Child Care Initiatives*** fund and ***Office of Child Care and Family Resources*** fund.



- A gift to the **Office of Child Care and Family Resources** COVID-19 relief fund will help to offset thousands of dollars lost during pandemic closures, most importantly, teacher salaries and administrative overhead. Here is the electronic link: <https://www.supportuw.org/giveto/OCCFRfund>
- A gift to the **New Campus Child Care Initiatives** fund will boost our efforts to expand child care center capacity as it remains the area of greatest need on campus. Jazzin' income has always been deposited into this fund. If you've supported this event in the past, we would appreciate your continued commitment. Here is the electronic link: <supportuw.org/giveto/childcare>

As always, we remain deeply grateful for your consideration. Our centers need you now more than ever.

Warm regards,

Cigdem Unal (*OCCFR Director*) & Teri Stratton (*Development*)



KEEPING PARENTS IN THE LOOP: CHILD CARE UPDATES & INFORMATION

UW MADISON CHILD CARE SERVICES

The **OCCFR** promotes the academic and professional goals of the University of Wisconsin community through the administration of early education and family support programs. Listed here are the child care centers available to UW-Madison families. If you have questions, please contact the providers directly for additional information about their services.

UW CAMPUS CHILD CARE CENTERS:

Eagle's Wing, Child Development Lab & Waisman Early Childhood Program

UW CHILD CARE NETWORK CENTERS:

Bernie's Place, Creative Learning Preschool, Little Chicks Learning Academy, Meeting House Nursery School, Preschool of the Arts & The Playing Field

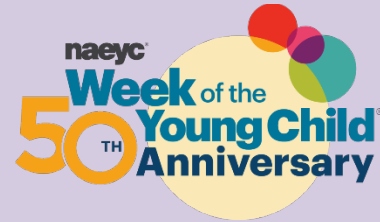
UW FAMILY CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP:

Family child care providers may serve a wide range of ages (birth through school age) or they may target a specific age group (infant/toddlers or preschool). Providers care for children in their home and can be county certified or state Licensed.

Child Care Services

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the *Week of the Young Child*. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) created this annual celebration to honor early education programs and professionals across the country. You and your children can participate in an engaging range of activities from April 10th-16th. It is a great opportunity to recognize young children and their devoted early childhood teachers.



We would like to dedicate this edition of **Family Badger Buzz** to *Week of the Young Child*. Time to join in the fun with your family!

[Week of the Young Child Activity Resources](#)

UNITY

-by Cleo V. Swarat-

I dreamed I stood in a studio
And watched two sculptors there,
The clay they used was a young child's mind
And they fashioned it with care.

One was a teacher:
the tools she used were books and music and art;
One was a parent
With a guiding hand and gentle loving heart.

And when at last their work was done,
They were proud of what they had wrought.
For the things they had worked into the child
Could never be sold or bought!

And each agreed she would have failed
if she had worked alone.
For behind the parent stood the school,
and behind the teacher stood the home!

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT:
ACTIVITIES**

If you are looking for ways to keep kids learning, focused and entertained, this resource is a gem. The activity library has a diverse list of topics to choose from: art, music, cooking, etc. Check it out and you will find many ways to broaden kids' minds and expand their interests. It is appropriate for all ages.



Gryphon House: Activity Finder



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER
(CLICK ON LINK BELOW TO VIEW INFORMATION)

[April Calendar of Events](#)



**LET'S HAVE SOME FUN: ACTIVITIES,
CRAFTS & THINGS TO DO**



WEEK OF ACTIVITIES

The week-long celebration for *Week of the Young Child* is filled with a variety of daily activities. Each day of the week reflects a different theme. Our campus and network child care centers are busy planning while being mindful of Covid-19 safety precautions. One of our UW campus centers

(Eagle's Wing) is gearing up for a Zoom Dance Party, scavenger hunt, and other fun happenings.

Here are just a few ideas with details and resources to enjoy your fun-filled *Week of the Young Child*.

[Music Monday](#)

[Tasty Tuesday](#)

[Work Together Wednesday](#)

[Artsy Thursday](#)

[Family Friday](#)

CHEF'S CORNER

(Family-friendly cooking with Marcia Castro)

Baked Sweet Potato Buffet

Sweet potatoes are a versatile vegetable and don't always require marshmallows to taste good. A sweet potato buffet is a fun way to interact with your children during mealtime. The topping possibilities are endless and a creative way to use leftovers from your refrigerator. Children love their naturally sweet flavor, but may not realize that they are highly nutritious, rich with antioxidants and a great source of fiber.



When buying sweet potatoes for a buffet, look for uniform sizes so that they all cook evenly.

Preheat oven to 400 and line a baking sheet with foil
Scrub the sweet potatoes; use a fork to poke a few holes and rub with oil.
Bake on the lined baking sheet for 50 minutes or until they are tender.
While the potatoes are baking, prepare toppings.

Below are a few suggestions; you can use as many as you'd like, or add what you have on hand.

- Salt & pepper
- Sour cream, butter or yogurt
- Shredded or crumbled cheese
- Cooked bacon and/or diced ham
- Chopped scallions or chives
- Any cooked vegetables: asparagus, broccoli, sweet peas, corn
- Black or pinto beans
- Salsa or chopped tomatoes
- Chopped almonds, walnuts or cashews

- For a sweet version: cinnamon, brown sugar or maple syrup

BOOK OF THE MONTH

All Are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold & Suzanne Kaufman

I'm sure you can recall a time in your past where you experienced the feeling of being welcomed either by a group of people or an individual. Or maybe you remember a time when you welcomed an individual or group of people. Such a kind and warm gesture goes a long way and can mean A LOT to the recipient.



In our book of the month, the message is about how kids discover that school is a welcoming destination and a place to be loved and appreciated regardless of who you are. The storyline is about celebrating and welcoming diverse backgrounds, sending a powerful message about inclusion.

(CLICK ON BOOK FOR PREVIEW AND LINK)





School of Education
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

UW Office of Child Care and Family Resources

608-265-9123

bdouglas@wisc.edu

www.occf.wisc.edu



OCCFR
Website