

Children in the Workplace Policy

UW-Madison Campuswide Administrative Policy
Policy # X.X
Children in the Workplace

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Functional Owner	Director, Office of Human Resources
Executive Sponsor	Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administration Provost & Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Policy Contact	Director, Office of Workforce Relations

Policy Summary

This policy provides guidance to UW-Madison divisions and university employees in determining under what conditions it is appropriate to bring a child or children into the workplace.

Who This Policy Applies To

This policy applies to an employee responsible for bringing a child or children into a campus workplace, regardless of the employee's relationship to the child or children.

This policy does not apply to children while they are in the care of a university child care program, participating in a university camp or youth enrichment program, or attending university classes in which they are enrolled. This policy does not apply to a child who has a parent with a workplace assignment in which one of the conditions of employment is residency in a campus facility (e.g., live-in residence hall director.)

Rationale

UW-Madison is a family-friendly workplace and supports work-life balance by providing appropriate flexibilities for employees, who may want or need to bring a child or children to the workplace for brief visits, specific campus events, situational convenience, or family emergencies.

Maintaining the safety and health of UW-Madison employees, students, guests and visitors relies upon the control of hazardous conditions and prevention of unsafe behaviors. When visitors are children, diligence to guard against unsafe conditions and unpredictable behaviors must be heightened.

Policy Detail

This policy addresses factors to consider when allowing an employee to bring a child or children into the workplace.

An employee may want to bring a child or children into the workplace under several circumstances, including:

1. *Brief visits* (e.g., an employee introduces a child to co-workers; an employee brings a child to work before or after an appointment).
2. *Specific campus events* that are employer-sanctioned and at which attendance by children is encouraged.
3. *In the event of an emergency.*

Abuse of policy. Children are not to be brought to work in lieu of extended and regular childcare.

High risk areas. Children are not allowed in high risk areas, as defined in this policy, unless an exception has been agreed to by management of the area and the institutional risk manager or safety officer.

Responsibilities. Employees and management must accept certain responsibilities (listed below) to protect the welfare of the child and the integrity of the workplace.

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Employee responsibilities.

An employee who brings a child or children into the workplace is responsible for:

- understanding the circumstances under which children are allowed in his/her/their specific workplace
- supervising and caring for the child while in the workplace
- accepting responsibility for all aspects of the child's behavior, the child's safety, and for any injury to persons or damage to property that is caused by the child's presence
- refraining from bringing a child with a communicable illness into the workplace

Management responsibilities.

Management is responsible for:

- determining that hazards are not likely to exist or can be controlled under the circumstances in which the child will be present
- considering the health of all employees when an employee wishes to bring a sick child into the workplace
- considering the extent to which the child's presence in the workplace poses a risk of breaching confidentiality of information in the workplace
- addressing behavior that prevents the employee from meeting workplace responsibilities or disrupts other employees in the workplace or the education of our students

Management has the authority to disallow the presence of children in the workplace in accordance with this policy. Examples include, but are not limited to, determining that a child's presence is unsafe, poses a health risk, or is disruptive.

Insurance coverage. Bringing a child or children into the workplace is generally not part of an employee's job duties and is generally not undertaken as an agent of UW-Madison, although rare exceptions may occur. Therefore, an employee who brings a child or children into the workplace may not (and should not expect to) be covered by the University's liability insurance for any negligent or intentional injury related to the child's or children's presence in the workplace.

A child or children as defined by this policy are not covered by the University's liability insurance or workers compensation programs. A child or children are expected to be covered by their parent's or guardian's health insurance in the event the child or children are hurt or injured while in the workplace.

Supporting Tools

University of Wisconsin-Madison Leave Benefits

- [Sick Leave](#)
- [Vacation](#)
- [Personal and Legal Holidays](#)

[Balancing Family & Work: UW-Madison Family Related Leave Policies for Faculty, Academic Staff & Limited Appointees](#)

[Workplace Flexibility](#): Workplace Flexibility Toolkit

[Office of Child Care & Family Resources](#)

- [Little Chicks](#) (back-up care)
- [Kids Kare](#) (program providing sliding scale fee support for employees, based on income)
- [Breastfeeding/Lactation](#) (list of lactation rooms on campus)

[UW-Madison CIO Responsible Use of Technology Policy](#)

University of Wisconsin-Madison Grievance Procedures

- [University Staff Grievances Policy](#)
- [Academic Staff Policies & Procedures 7. Employment Problems: Informal Resolution & Grievance Procedures](#)
- [Faculty Policies & Procedures 8.15. Grievances of Faculty Members](#)

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Definitions

“Child” or “children” means “a person or persons under the age of 18 years of age who is not enrolled in classes at the university.”

“Employee” means anyone employed by UW-Madison, regardless of employee category or appointment type.

“High risk area” includes any area with: hazardous levels of radiation; hazardous chemicals or substances; hazardous biological agents or vectors; hazardous equipment or processes, or; other area deemed high risk by the institutional risk manager or safety officer.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- high security areas
- areas that are excluded for general employee or student access
- animal care or animal research facilities
- certain laboratories
- food preparation areas
- construction areas
- fitness centers
- maintenance garages
- mechanical rooms
- steam plants
- trade or machine shops
- university-owned vehicles

“Management” includes supervisors, managers, department chairs, directors, deans, vice chancellors, provosts, or chancellors.

Responsibilities

Office of Human Resources

- Provides policy oversight to ensure compliance with campus policy
- Conducts periodic reviews of the policy with campus human resources departments and other stakeholders, as appropriate
- Implements changes to the policy, as necessary

Deans and Directors

- Ensures that the college/school/division consistently applies and complies with the rationale and provisions of this policy

College/School/Division HR

- Ensures consistent application of the policy within the school/college/division

Supervisor (please see [Management Responsibilities](#), above)

Employee (please see [Employee Responsibilities](#), above)

Link to Current Policy

URL of policy so that someone using print copy can refer to online copy.

Link to Related Policies

URL of policy so that someone using print copy can refer to online copy.

Link to Policy History

Link to policy creation and revision history.