



**UW-Madison Division of Extension \* Renee Koenig, Associate Professor, Human Development and Relationships Educator**  
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**Check out  
@RAISINGWICHILDREN  
on Instagram**

For information, tips, and connections regarding parenting and family relationships



## Focus on Fathers

Today, many fathers are quite involved in raising their children. These fathers play with their babies, feed and change their babies, and create a warm close relationship with them. More mothers work outside the home than in the past, so dads are taking on the responsibility of doing more in-home work, including caring for their children. By taking care of their children each day, fathers have a chance to form a strong, close bond with them. Dads create that close bond with their children by giving them some special time each day. By focusing on just their child and nothing else, dads are telling their children that they are important.

To learn more about the UW-Madison Extension workshop series titled, "Focus on Fathers" please contact Renee Koenig via email at [renee.koenig@wisc.edu](mailto:renee.koenig@wisc.edu).



### FREE Parenting Newsletters in English and Spanish

<https://jntp.info/>

En Español

<https://jntp.info/es/>

## Co-Parenting Classes

The goals of the program are to:

- Eliminate parental conflict in front of children.
- Keep the children out of parents' issues.
- Provide children with access to both parents.
- Put the best interests of the children first.

For more information, contact Renee Koenig, at [renee.koenig@wisc.edu](mailto:renee.koenig@wisc.edu).

## Money as You Grow: Giving children foundational money skills

Extension educators help children, parents, and other caregivers work together to learn basic money concepts and executive functioning skills. Through the creation of book reading guides for 29 popular children's books with money-related themes, families set goals together, understand the difference between needs and wants, learn to save their money, and build a sound financial future.

Educators created the reading guides with family activities and discussion questions. They recorded videos in which they read each of the books and shared content from the guides. In a survey 143 parents/caregivers were randomly shown one of the videos and asked questions about their experience. The results indicated that:

- 93%** Feel more comfortable talking with children about money in a positive manner
- 97%** Will talk with children about money skills like self-control and decision-making, vs. quick comments that we typically say to kids like "that's too expensive."

In April and May 2021 educators conducted trainings for childcare providers throughout Wisconsin on how to use the Money as You Grow materials with the children in their care. Participant evaluations showed that:

- 82%** Will use the Money as You Grow books and guides with the children they serve
- 100%** Feel able to create interest in money and its use among the children in their care compared to 46% before the training.
- 93%** Feel able to provide children with support in building financial skills compared to 57% before the training.

### What People are Saying

"The story helps children understand that sometimes we have to wait to buy material things. Some things we want cost a lot and it takes time to save for these items."



### Achieving More Together

UW-Madison Division of Extension works alongside the people of Wisconsin to deliver practical educational programs where people live and work – on the farm, in schools and throughout urban and rural communities. With educators in all 72 counties, on 5 campuses and within 5 tribal nations, we're helping our neighbors put their own great ideas into practice with the support of our expertise, resources and university research.

**WeCOPE Registration**

WeCOPE is an evidence-based program that helps adults cope with life stress. WeCOPE has been shown to reduce stress and depression, increase positive affect, and improve health behaviors in randomized trials.

Managing life's challenges in healthy ways allows participants to take better care of themselves and others.

This 7-class program meets via Zoom once-twice a week for an 1 hour each class. An additional 6 practice hours will be expected.

Mondays and Thursdays from September 9th – 30th, 2021 11 am - Noon  
 - Thursday, September 9th  
 - Monday, September 13th  
 - Thursday, September 16th  
 - Monday, September 20th  
 - Thursday, September 23rd  
 - Monday, September 27th  
 - Thursday, September 30th

Questions? Please contact us!

Kenosha County - Mary Metten - [mary.metten@wisc.edu](mailto:mary.metten@wisc.edu)  
 Racine County - Sarah Hawks - [sarah.hawks@wisc.edu](mailto:sarah.hawks@wisc.edu)  
 Walworth County - Amanda Kostman - [amanda.kostman@wisc.edu](mailto:amanda.kostman@wisc.edu)

## Upcoming Workshops

Call 920-388-7137 or email [renee.koenig@wisc.edu](mailto:renee.koenig@wisc.edu) for a workshop schedule.

- ◆ Aging Mastery Program
- ◆ Caring For Children Who Have Experienced Trauma
- ◆ Coping With Stress on the Family Farm
- ◆ Family Money Matters
- ◆ Mental Health First Aid
- ◆ Positive Co-Parenting
- ◆ Powerful Tools for Caregivers of Children With Special Health Needs
- ◆ Youth Risky Behaviors and What You Can Do