Distributed by UW News Service, December 22, 2025

Link to original story: <https://www.uww.edu/news/archive/2025-11-learning-trail>

**Born Learning Trail connects early learners to literacy in Whitewater**

*CAPTIONS*

*1   
A new public trail helps parents and other caregivers engage in fun activities when out on a stroll is breaking ground in Starin Park in the city of Whitewater. The trail was spearheaded by Jennalee Johnson, a lead teacher in the Children’s Center — an award-winning early childhood education and childcare program on the UW-Whitewater campus. (UW-Whitewater photo/Craig Schreiner)*

2  
*Jennalee Johnson, third from left, with other UW-Whitewater Children’s Center staff at the center’s play area on May 13, 2024. From left, Haley Westhause, Katherine Reddeman, Johnson, Katie Check, Lindsey Nelson, Chelsea Newman, Ellie Bader, Peggy Lean, and Jake Pierce. (UW-Whitewater photo/Craig Schreiner)*

*3  
A Born Learning Trail in Elgin, Illinois. (Source: bornlearning.org/trails/spotlights)*

*4  
The sun begins to set as the picnic hosted in Starin Park by the UW-Whitewater Latinos Unidos student organization and Spanish Club to mark the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month begins to wind down on Thursday, Sept. 15, 2022. (UW-Whitewater photo/Craig Schreiner)*

*5  
Jennalee Johnson, an early childhood education teacher at the UW-Whitewater Children’s Center, helps to arrange bilingual signs for the Born Learning Trail in Starin Park on Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025. (UW-Whitewater/Craig Schreiner)*

*6  
Jennalee Johnson, an early childhood education teacher at the UW-Whitewater Children’s Center, helps to install a Spanish-language sign for the Born Learning Trail in Starin Park on Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025. (UW-Whitewater/Craig Schreiner)*

*7  
Jennalee Johnson, an early childhood education teacher at the UW-Whitewater Children’s Center, and Kevin Boehm, director of parks and recreation for the City of Whitewater, place signs for the Born Learning Trail in Starin Park on Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025. (UW-Whitewater photo/Craig Schreiner)*