



Parkinson's Disease Youth Education Day!

May 16, 2026

9 am to 4 pm

Based on research interviews with over youth, their families the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee have developed youth education, skills and training programs. One of the major findings of the interviews was the large number of youth who help take care of family members with little, or no training.

So we asked, how do youth know what to do?

"I just watched and learned"

"I don't really know"

"I learned through trial and error"

Having youth assist in care is actually very common in families. Yet, many families are concerned about having their children be involved in care, and sometimes worry about how to talk to them, or have others know about the care they provide. In order to provide support for you and your youth – we developed a way to address youth and caregiving!

We are offering a research and support program (YCare) for youth to learn caregiving skills from expert health professionals, while in a fun and supportive environment with other youth who provide care.

Your child will be asked to complete a brief survey at the beginning and end of the day, helping us know what works and what we can do better. For participating, each youth will receive a gift card.

If you would like to register, ask any questions, or would like more information about the research training, please contact:

Hannah Hutler-Boyd at hutlerbo@uwm.edu



Join an Info Session

April 20th at 2:30 CST

[YCare Parkinson's Info Session 1](#)

April 21st at 12 CST

[YCare Parkinson's Info Session 2](#)

April 21st at 5:30 CST

[YCare Parkinson's Info Session 3](#)

April 30th at 4 CST

[YCare Parkinson's Info Session 4](#)



FAQs

Who can attend Youth Day?

All children and teens who have a family member with Parkinson's Disease (parent, grandparent etc.) ages 8-18, and whose parent provide consent.

What will my child/grandchild be doing during the day?

First, Skilled therapists and clinicians will provide basic skills and education in three main areas:

- Basic care – how to transfer, use rails, seats and chairs, and assist with dressing.
- Speech and communication – learn new communication strategies, preparing food textures, cueing patient for swallowing.
- Understanding cognition & managing emotions – understanding how Parkinson's

Disease impacts a person's understand of the world around them and their emotions.

Second, they will be able to spend the time meeting other youth, talking about living with Parkinson's Disease, and having a fun time! Meeting other youth is often the thing youth say they want the most!

What if my loved one with Parkinson's Disease passed away, can I still bring my child?

Absolutely! We want all children and teens to come – regardless of whether they have a loved one currently living with Parkinson's Disease.

What if the person living with Parkinson's Disease has not progressed to need much care – why should my child attend?

Good question. We think about these skills as tools in your child's "tool belt". They may never use them, but when they need them, they are there.

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