

# MEET KYLIE.

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**K**ylie moved to La Crosse at age 18 to attend UWL. That's where she met her husband, Ben, who was also pursuing a degree in the field of education.

The couple settled here, eventually getting married. After the birth of their third child, it no longer made financial sense for Kylie to work – quality childcare is expensive and can be hard to find! Kylie made the difficult decisions to give up her career as a teacher to stay at home with her three eldest children, Henry, Sam, and Oliver.

Kylie first heard about United Way funded partner The Parenting Place at the public library's children's storytime. In her words, she wanted to "be the best Kylie possible so [she] could be the best mom possible," and The Parenting Place helped her do just that.

Kylie attended as many Parenting Place events as their schedules allowed, and Ben came, too, when he could. She enjoyed seeing her sons learn as they interacted with other children. Kylie was learning, too – from staff and other parents – and she gained a new sense of purpose as a stay at home mom.

About a year after their visits started, a career opportunity knocked, and the family moved to Sun Prairie. Kylie and the kids were sad to leave The Parenting Place behind, but they were all better equipped to thrive after just that one year.

Kylie looked for similar programming in Sun Prairie, but it simply didn't exist. Not even in Madison! Kylie was forced to get creative, and trips to places like the library and pet store filled their days.

When Ben accepted a new job back in La Crosse about two years ago, Kylie counted her family's triumphant return to The Parenting Place among her blessings. She was excited to introduce baby #4, Leo, to the people who had become an extension of her family, and it was like they had never left.

Kylie currently serves on the org's Parent Advisory Board. Leo starts preschool next year, but Kylie plans to remain involved. The Parenting Place means that much to her, and she can't thank the people that make it possible – our donors – enough!

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number of visitors  
to The Parenting  
Place for parent/  
child development  
programming in  
2019



Great Rivers United Way