

## **POLICY ON CHILDREN IN THE CLASSROOM**

The University of Michigan does not have a formal policy about children attending class sessions. However, I understand that parental, sibling, or caregiver obligations may result in needing to bring children to class. As a result:

1. All exclusively breastfeeding infants are welcome in class as often as is necessary.
2. Toddlers and older children are welcome in the classroom or office hours in instances of unforeseen disruptions in childcare. You are welcome to bring your child to cover any gaps in care. While this is not meant to be a long-term solution, occasionally bringing your child to class to cover gaps in care is perfectly acceptable.
3. I ask that all students work to create an environment welcoming of diversity, including that in parenting or caregiver status.
4. In cases where your child attends class, please sit near the door, which will allow you to step out in case your child needs additional attention.
5. Please reach out if we can be of any assistance in balancing academic and caregiver obligations. I understand that one of the biggest barriers to completing coursework can be the exhaustion of being a parent, and I would far rather you arrive in class well-rested than have stayed up late completing an assignment after children go to bed! While I maintain the same high expectations for all student in my classes regardless of parenting status, I am happy to problem solve with you in a way that makes you feel supported as you strive for school-parenting balance. Thank you for the diversity you bring to our classroom!

*Adapted from Dr. Melissa Cheyney, Oregon State University*