



KUKYOOSSIN LEARNING CENTER

Board Report – August 2026

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Enrollment & Staffing

Kukyoossin Learning Center has started the 2026–2027 school year in a very positive position. We are currently fully staffed and operating at our maximum capacity of 25 children. We also have a waiting list of families interested in enrollment as space becomes available. The continued interest in the program demonstrates the ongoing need for quality childcare services within our district and community.

Staff returned to the building on August 17th to begin preparing for the new school year. This time was used to organize classrooms, prepare learning materials, establish classroom environments, and ensure that each space was ready to welcome children and families back.

Classroom Environment & Literacy Focus

A major focus during classroom preparation was creating intentional learning environments that support our literacy goals for the upcoming school year. Classrooms have been arranged to include clearly defined learning centers that encourage children to explore materials independently, make choices, engage in creative play, and interact with books, language, and print throughout their day.

Teachers worked to create inviting spaces where literacy is incorporated naturally into classroom routines and play experiences. Centers and materials are designed to support early language development, social-emotional growth, independence, creativity, and developmentally appropriate learning across all age groups.

Our new Teaching Strategies Creative Curriculum will begin being implemented after Labor Day. During the first two weeks of school, our primary focus is intentionally placed on building relationships, establishing classroom routines, and teaching expectations. Developing strong relationships with children and helping them feel safe, comfortable, and confident in their classrooms provides the foundation necessary for successful learning throughout the remainder of the year.

Welcome Back, Children & Families

The children have officially returned, and it has been wonderful to see how much they have grown and changed over the summer. The transition back into the center has gone extremely well. We have experienced minimal tears during drop-off, and many parents have shared that their children were excited and looking forward to coming back to school.

Teachers have spent these first days reconnecting with returning children while also developing relationships with new children and families. Maintaining a welcoming and supportive environment during this transition continues to be an important priority for our staff.

Licensing & Compliance

Preparation has begun for our annual childcare license renewal, which is due at the end of November. Although the renewal is several months away, there are a number of requirements that must be completed and documented prior to submission.

As part of the renewal process, the center must complete required fire and health inspections, provide updated insurance documentation, and ensure that all employees have completed their required annual training hours. Staff must also remain current on the Montana Early Childhood Project Practitioner Registry.

Our state licensing inspection was completed on August 27th, and everything looked great. This was a positive start to the renewal process and reflects the work staff have put into maintaining safe, organized, and compliant classrooms.

Scheduling and preparation for the remaining required inspections has begun, and I am currently reviewing staff training records, registry information, insurance documentation, and other required materials to ensure everything is completed well in advance of the November renewal deadline.

Looking Ahead

As we move into September, our focus will shift from beginning-of-the-year routines into full curriculum implementation. Staff will continue establishing consistent classroom expectations while beginning to incorporate the new curriculum and our increased literacy focus into daily instruction.

We are also planning a September Literacy and Family Engagement Night to provide families with an opportunity to participate in literacy-based activities with their children and learn ways they can support early literacy development at home. Family engagement will continue to be an important component of our literacy goals throughout the school year.

To strengthen communication and connections between the classroom and home, teachers are now required to send home monthly classroom newsletters. These newsletters will provide families with information about classroom learning, upcoming activities and events, curriculum topics, and ways they can support their child's learning at home.

We are beginning the 2026–2027 school year in a strong position: fully staffed, at full enrollment with a waiting list, prepared for curriculum implementation, and already working proactively toward our annual licensing requirements. Most importantly, the children have returned happy and excited to learn, which has made for a very positive beginning to the school year.

