

**KUKYOOSSIN
LEARNING CENTER**



**Kukyoossin Learning Center
May 2026 Board Report
Brittany Burns, Director**

Data Snapshot

Enrollment is currently at 23 children, as two children recently transitioned to Head Start in Babb. While this brings us slightly below our capacity of 25, the decision has been made not to fill these openings due to the late timing in the school year. Introducing new children at this stage can be challenging, as it requires time for both children and staff to adjust to new routines and relationships. Maintaining consistency within classrooms will support a stable and successful end to the school year.

Interest from families in the community remains strong, and inquiries for future enrollment continue. Staff have remained flexible and committed to maintaining high-quality care and instruction as we approach the end of the school year.

During the month of May, one staff member began maternity leave. We are fortunate to have a permanent substitute serving in her position during her absence. The substitute has transitioned seamlessly into the classroom, developed positive relationships with the children, and has done an excellent job maintaining consistency and daily routines.

To further support classroom operations, several staffing adjustments were made throughout the center. These changes were implemented to ensure classrooms remain within required child-to-staff ratios while also providing the highest quality care and learning experiences for children. Staff have demonstrated flexibility and teamwork throughout these transitions, allowing the program to continue operating smoothly while meeting the individual needs of children across all age groups.

Program Highlights

One of the most exciting events this month involved three children who will be transitioning to the Little Learners classroom at Bullshoe Elementary next school year. These children participated in a classroom visit to help prepare for the transition. Staff reported that the children joined right in, participated confidently, and demonstrated readiness for the next step in their educational journey. The experience helped build excitement for kindergarten readiness and provided reassurance that they are prepared for the expectations of the larger school environment.

Another memorable moment occurred during graduation week. While Kukyoossin Learning Center was not originally included in the graduation walkthrough route, circumstances worked out perfectly when graduates needed to pass through our building to reconnect

with the sidewalk. Our children were able to see the graduates in their caps and gowns, and the excitement throughout the building was incredible. Many children watched in complete awe as the graduates passed by. It was especially meaningful for those children who recognized family members and parents among the graduating class. The experience provided a powerful visual reminder of the importance of education and gave our youngest learners an opportunity to celebrate a significant milestone within our community.

During the warmer days of May, classrooms took advantage of opportunities to extend learning beyond the classroom walls. Children participated in walking field trips to the local corner store where they practiced safe walking procedures, followed community safety expectations, and enjoyed kiddie cones as a special treat. We also hosted a water day that encouraged outdoor play, sensory exploration, social interaction, and physical development. These experiences created lasting memories while supporting developmental learning goals.

Facility & Operations Update

During the recent community-wide electrical outage, several electrical outlets within the building were affected. Unfortunately, our washing machine sustained damage and was no longer operational following the outage. Maintaining access to laundry equipment is critical in a childcare setting, particularly for sanitation, bedding, and daily classroom operations.

Thankfully, district maintenance staff responded quickly to restore power and address the electrical concerns. We were able to purchase a replacement washing machine and resume normal operations with minimal disruption to services. We appreciate the support provided by maintenance staff and administration in resolving the issue quickly.

Curriculum & Instruction Update

Materials purchased through the Montana Reads Grant have continued arriving and are being incorporated into classrooms. These resources will support literacy development, language acquisition, and early reading skills across all age groups. Staff have begun familiarizing themselves with the new materials and discussing ways to integrate them into daily classroom experiences.

Planning also continues for the implementation of the Teaching Strategies Creative Curriculum beginning next school year. Professional development planning remains a priority to ensure staff are prepared to successfully implement curriculum components and utilize ongoing assessment practices that support individualized instruction and child growth.

Looking Ahead to Summer

As we transition into summer programming, our focus will remain on providing engaging learning experiences, supporting children who will be transitioning to preschool and elementary programs, and continuing preparations for the implementation of our new curriculum. We will also continue utilizing outdoor learning opportunities, family engagement activities, and literacy-focused experiences that support children's development across all domains.

Thank you for your continued support of Kukyooosin Learning Center and our commitment to providing high-quality early childhood education experiences for the children and families we serve.

Pre-K Visit



