

Browning Public Schools Childcare Program

Monthly Board Report

Submitted by: Brittany Burns Childcare Director

Reporting Period: July 2025

Rebuilding and Rebranding with Purpose

I am incredibly excited and honored to submit my first board report as the new Childcare Director for Browning Public Schools. July has been a month full of growth, vision, and progress. As we look ahead to the new school year, I am filled with pride and enthusiasm about the transformations taking place in our childcare program.

Upon accepting the position, one of the first major tasks was to address our licensing status. At the time of my hire, the BPS Childcare Center was not licensed. I am thrilled to report that as of August 5, 2025, we are now officially licensed and fully approved to begin operating and welcoming children into our care. This accomplishment took a great deal of collaboration and coordination.

Some of the key documents submitted to secure our license included:

- Proof of liability and facility insurance
- Building inspection clearance
- Fire inspection clearance
- Updated staff training and health documentation

This process would not have been possible without the strong support and partnership of the State of Montana and the Blackfeet Tribe, both of whom I will continue to work closely with to ensure compliance and excellence.

Looking Forward: A Learning Center, Not Just a Childcare

One of the most exciting aspects of stepping into this role is the opportunity to reimagine what childcare means for Browning Public Schools. My vision is to rebrand our program from "childcare" to a learning center that prepares children academically, socially, and culturally for public school and lifelong success. We are not just watching children – we are engaging them in meaningful, developmentally appropriate learning experiences every day.

Additionally, we are in the early planning stages of a high school partnership that will allow Browning High School students to take early childhood education courses.

This collaboration will provide students with:

- Dual credit opportunities
- Hands-on practice working in our center
- Real-world skills to obtain employment in early childhood settings immediately after graduation

This initiative is not only a benefit to our youth, but also to the greater community, as we build a strong, local early childhood workforce.

Rooted in Culture and Language

As we work to rebrand and revitalize our program, I am committed to ensuring that our center reflects the beauty, strength, and traditions of the Blackfeet Nation. From the curriculum to the environment, we are weaving the Blackfeet language and cultural practices into everything we do. We are not just caretakers, we are culture keepers, and our children deserve to grow up with a strong sense of identity and pride.

I envision a new name, logo, and sign for our center – one that represents our community values, cultural richness, and our educational mission. The rebranding process will be inclusive and community-driven, ensuring it reflects the spirit of who we are and where we come from.

Staffing and Training Updates

We currently have three dedicated staff members returning this year, and I am in the process of hiring three additional team members to ensure we are fully staffed and ready for a successful launch. All staff will complete their required early childhood training and professional development prior to the first day of childcare operations.

In addition, a Professional Development (PD) plan is currently being drafted to ensure that all childcare aides and staff are receiving training that supports their development as highly trained and effective early childhood educators. This plan will focus on building a strong foundation of best practices, classroom management, cultural responsiveness, and early learning strategies.

Final Thoughts

July was a foundational month for rebuilding and setting a strong direction for the future of our program. As we look to the fall, I am excited to open our doors not just

with a license, but with a renewed purpose and a vision for excellence. I look forward to keeping the Board updated on our progress and celebrating the many successes that lie ahead for our children, families, and staff.

Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
Brittany Burns
Childcare Director
Browning Public Schools