

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 more stable and successful end to the school year. Interest from families in the community remains strong, with ongoing inquiries for enrollment. Staffing continues to require flexibility; however, consistent routines and staff collaboration have supported daily operations. This month's primary focus has been on strengthening safety procedures, maintaining licensing compliance, and preparing for curriculum implementation in the upcoming school year.

Program Highlights

During the month of April, Kukyoossin Learning Center focused on strengthening safety practices and building foundational knowledge around emergency procedures. As required by state licensure, the program must complete six fire drills annually. To ensure these drills are developmentally appropriate, staff began by teaching children about fire safety in a gradual and supportive way. This included practicing how to safely walk together using walking ropes, reinforcing the importance of staying with the group, and introducing the sound of a fire alarm using a speaker to reduce fear and increase familiarity.

We conducted two fire drills during the month of April. The first drill was completed using the speaker system, allowing staff and children to practice procedures in a controlled environment. The second drill was coordinated with Reid to more closely simulate a real emergency scenario. Through this process, we identified that the fire alarm system did not activate within the childcare space when pulled, although it was sounding at Browning

Elementary School (BES). This concern was immediately addressed, and Reid is currently working with Interstate Alarm to resolve the issue and ensure the system is fully functional. Two additional fire drills are planned for the remainder of the school year to meet licensing requirements and continue strengthening preparedness.

Curriculum & Instruction Update

April brought important progress in preparing for instructional improvements for the upcoming school year. Kukyoossin Learning Center received a portion of the MT Reads grant, which allowed for the purchase of a variety of high-quality literacy resources. These materials will support language development, early reading skills, and meaningful engagement for children across all age groups.

In alignment with this work, a professional development plan has been developed to support staff in effectively implementing our new curriculum. This plan is focused on ensuring teachers understand not only the structure of the curriculum, but also have the tools and strategies necessary to create engaging, literacy-rich learning environments that support all developmental domains.

Beginning next school year, the program will implement the Teaching Strategies Creative Curriculum across infant, toddler, and preschool classrooms. This research-based curriculum supports the whole child through intentional, play-based learning experiences. It focuses on social-emotional, physical, language, and cognitive development, while also incorporating key content areas such as literacy, mathematics, science, and the arts.

An important component of this curriculum is its embedded assessment system. Teachers will continuously observe and document children's development through everyday interactions and activities. This ongoing assessment process allows for individualized instruction, supports progress monitoring, and ensures each child's needs are being met. By embedding assessment into daily practice, teachers are able to make informed instructional decisions and adjust learning experiences to best support each child.

Looking Ahead to May & Beyond

As we move into the final months of the school year, our focus will include completing remaining fire drills to meet licensing requirements, ensuring all safety systems are fully operational, and continuing preparation for curriculum implementation. We will also begin transitioning staff into professional development opportunities aligned with the new curriculum to ensure a strong start for the upcoming school year.

Additionally, we will continue to explore opportunities for program growth, including potential expansion of enrollment capacity pending guidance from administration. Our goal remains to provide a high-quality early learning environment that meets the needs of our

children, families, and community while aligning with best practices in early childhood education.





