

June/July 2025 Preschool Report

Preschool Report: June/July 2025

After extensive planning and preparation throughout June and July, we are excited to welcome over 120 preschool children to school beginning August 11th!

Playgrounds – Polk Central, Saluda, and Sunny View

Although the recent rainy weather has been beneficial for our yards and gardens, it has unfortunately delayed progress on the playground renovations. While our goal was to have all playgrounds completed by August 11th, work is still underway. We now anticipate completion within the next couple of weeks.

In the meantime, staff have shown flexibility and creativity, adjusting their daily activities to accommodate the temporary lack of outdoor play space.

Staffing

We had two teacher assistant vacancies at Tryon Elementary. Two candidates have been recommended to the Board, and we expect to begin the school year fully staffed.

We are pleased to welcome Laura Jane Howald into her new role as Preschool Director. She has already made a strong start, and Kathy will continue to support her during the transition.

Shelley Upton has assumed her new position as Pre-K Education Specialist. She is actively supporting teachers and, on August 6th, facilitated a full-day training with *Teaching Strategies* to help launch the new school year.

Enrollment

We are proud to report full enrollment for our 80 allotted Head Start slots. Special thanks to Amy Scott, whose dedication and hard work throughout the summer ensured children were enrolled and met qualification requirements for the program.