

Attn: Teacher Grants Committee

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact Karen Anderson 405-379-3596 or karenab@plainsnet.net



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20

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Grants to Teachers Application Form

*Please use a typewriter or word processor to complete the application.
Submit in the format listed below.*

Date: March 14, 2019

Grant Title: Moving Students Are Better Learners

School: Ethel Reed Elementary

Grade Level(s): 2nd

Content Area: all areas including reading, spelling, language, math, handwriting, and art

Total Dollar Amount Requested: \$857.16

1. What is the major educational need this grant addresses? Please give grade level and academic area.

Everyone has a different learning style. One of these styles is kinesthetic learning. Sensory needs also affect behavior. Educators have found that modulating "sensory input, while maintaining the level of appropriate behavior required at school" helps students with autism spectrum disorder. The use of therapy balls and balance cushions for seating are methods of helping these students maintain an "optimal state of arousal" thus improving their educational experience and helping them learn better as well as promotes healthy posture. (Illi 1994; Lear and Pomeroy, 1994; Schroder, 1997; Witt and Talbot, 1998). I have found that many of my regular education students also are better focused from the use of balance balls and other objects that give them sensory input.

A study done by the University of Central Florida found that "kids with ADHD only need to move when they are accessing their brain's executive functions. That

Jodey Biggs
Christina Jeffrey
Elizabeth Babb
Jennifer Lening

movement helps them maintain alertness,” and “fidgeting was most often present when children were using their brain’s executive functions, particularly ‘working memory.’”

The use of therapy balls, balance cushions, and balancing pods would allow students to get enough sensory input to facilitate these brain functions that enhance learning, reasoning, and comprehending (sciencedaily.com).

The study also suggests that a majority of students with ADHD could perform better on classroom work, tests, and homework if they are sitting on therapy balls. This is the reason we are requesting the equipment listed in #5 for our 2nd grade students.

2. Approximately how many pupils will be affected by this project, both directly and indirectly?

The potential number of students who will be affected by this equipment is unlimited. Since classes are self-contained at Ethel Reed Elementary, these items will allow all students access to sensory input equipment for many years in all areas, including, but not limited to science, math, reading, language, handwriting, art, spelling, and social studies. There are approximately 85 students in the 2nd grade this year. The equipment requested would be reusable for many years.

3. Describe your grant including methods, materials and objectives. Foundation grants are intended to fund a creative teaching plan, so if equipment or materials are requested it should be clearly stated as to why these are an integral part of the plan.

Flexible seating is a classroom method that has recently been an upward trend with teachers and the education field. More and more educators are moving towards the flexible seating arrangement for a variety of different reasons. Students have a choice of where they want to sit and with whom. They are also able to choose from a variety of different tools that can accommodate the specific needs a student may have. In today’s world we are seeing children with enhanced social and emotional disabilities that require educators to use a variety of different methods and learning styles to assist these children so that they are able learn to their best ability. Flexible seating is just one of many variations in the learning environment that teacher’s today are using to help these students be successful. Giving students a choice and some freedom in their learning environment empowers them. As they grow older, they will be put in real life situations that require them to be able to make their own choices responsibly. They will not have someone there telling them what to do every step of the way. “Flexible seating is also good for a student’s physical health and gives them comfort. It allows them to wobble, rock, bounce, lean or stand, which increases oxygen flow to the brain, blood flow and core strength. In turn, this burns more calories and increases metabolism. It also helps keep young minds more alert and focused.” (Educational Trend Blog) It encourages students to find a comfortable place to learn, and they are better able to stay focused and attentive. It also makes it easy to collaborate for group activities and discussions. Many flexible seating options stimulate students’ sense of touch. This type of stimulation can help children focus and process information. Sensory input is especially helpful for students with ADHD, ADD, and ASD. Some of the tools that we are looking forward to incorporating into the classroom are Balancing Pods or “Hedgehogs”, Wobble Cushions, and exercise balls. These three tools are the tools that we will be purchasing with this grant. All of these tools are part of our differentiated learning plan, and will help children be better able to focus when learning.

Objectives: The learner will be provided:

1. The chance to use differentiated learning tools for increased learning and better assessment scores.
2. The ability to choose the least restrictive learning environment in the classroom to utilize their tool.
3. The opportunity to cater to each student's learning style and to be able to plan for individualized learning.
4. Increased physical activity and comfort.
5. To be able to satisfy the sensory input needed for each individual learner.

4. Give a time schedule of implementation.

The equipment can be ordered as soon as the funds are made available and would be put in to use immediately.

5. Detail your budget request. Include specific information about kinds of materials and equipment needed, sources of supply, and costs (including shipping and handling). If possible, list alternatives if full funding is not available.

20 Trideer Inflatable Stability Wobble Cushions with pump @ \$17.99 each from Amazon \$359.80

4 Yes4All Balance Pods Hedgehog-Style (set of 6) @ \$24.49 a set from Amazon \$97.96

20 Exercise Balls with pump from Amazon \$19.97 each \$399.40

Total \$857.16

6. What methods will be used for measuring the stated objectives, or what definite evaluation will you make to determine whether the grant was successful? (Please be specific)
Teacher observation, grades, and test scores will measure the students' improved focus and learning.