

SAMPLE COMPLETED GRANT APPLICATION 2024-25

Project title: *Out & About With ECFE*

Applicant Position: *Parent & Family Educator*

School/Program: *Pearson Early Learning Center*

Grade/Department: *Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)*

List all teachers/staff/grade levels who will benefit from this project: *Multiple ECFE teachers (children's teachers and parent & family educators) as well as Shakopee's littlest and oldest learners (children in the community ages 0-5 and their parents/caregivers)*

Is your grant proposal technology-based, meaning would any part of your project interact with the building's network, hardware, or software? *No*

Did you submit a Final Grant Report Form if you received a grant award in a previous grant cycle?
Did not receive a grant.

Grant Proposal Details

Please describe your grant proposal by answering the following questions in as much detail as possible. Each of the bolded items represents evaluative criteria on our scoring rubric. As part of the **Professional Presentation** evaluative criteria, please answer all questions, provide complete information, and check for errors before submitting your application.

Project Title: *Out & About with ECFE*

Provide a Summary Statement of two to three paragraphs to describe your proposal including the purpose/objective, rationale, target learners, and expected outcomes. (Your statement may be used in SEEF promotional communications.):

Out & About with ECFE is innovative programming that services Shakopee's littlest learners AND their parents and caregivers. Shakopee Early Childhood & Family Education (ECFE) works tirelessly to educate and support families from the get-go. Providing age-appropriate and early learning experiences while at the same time providing parent education and support for caregivers sets Shakopee families and students up for future and continued success. Out & About with ECFE aims to remove any barriers or access to ECFE that families may encounter. Our program, Out & About with ECFE, will bring the learning into the community. Quality programming, age-appropriate toys & activities, books, songs, and early social interactions paired with modeling and parent education for caregivers, will set families up for success, all while building community and early connections to Shakopee Schools. Currently, we will meet at the Shakopee Library, Shakopee Community Center, and Family Resource Center, with the goal of bringing programming to low-income housing and apartments in the future. We know that parents/caregivers are the first & most important teachers. The earlier we can engage with families and provide quality education and supports, the better. Out & About with Shakopee ECFE aims to remove any barriers for families so that all in Shakopee have equal and early access to education, caregiver support, and community connection.

Innovation, Creativity & Uniqueness: Describe how your project will introduce new, creative, or innovative educational methods, materials, and/or technology to promote unique learning opportunities for students.

Out & About with ECFE is unique in that we bring the learning out into the community. For other programming, students and families need to come to school buildings, specifically, Pearson Early Learning Center. By bringing programming into the community, we will meet families where they are at. Out & About with ECFE will eliminate the need for transportation to Pearson Early Learning Center. It also will spread awareness at community locations (library, community center, family resource center) about educational offerings and supports the district has. Out & About will very likely provide programming and education to parents & caregivers in a lower income bracket who may not otherwise have access to such educational opportunities that service the whole family (children and caregivers)

Educational Need: Describe how your project fulfills a specific and significant need and ties the need to student learning.

Science has shown that there is rapid brain growth from the ages of birth-5 and that early experiences are important in creating healthy adults. ECFE and Out & About with ECFE focus on social-emotional learning for children while at the same time supporting parents/caregivers as they realize the importance of their role in their child's educational journey. It is not easy to raise young children, so Out & About will provide positive, age-appropriate activities and play for children, while at the same time modeling, educating, supporting, and creating connections to the Shakopee community for their caregivers. It is so important to engage our learners early as well as involve their parents/caregivers. Their role in their child's continued education and providing support at home is extremely valuable. Out & About will help them become aware of the role they play and start early their connections with Shakopee Schools.

Student Impact: How many students will be affected by the project in its initial year?

Our hope is to engage and connect with 6-10 families at each site (36-60+ total, factoring one parent/caregiver with at least one child, knowing that many families will have more than one child that falls into the 0-5 range). We plan to continue this program in the coming years, knowing that word of mouth from families will help our programming grow, as well as eventually expand into low-income housing and apartment buildings.

Student Impact (continued): Based on the population identified in the proposal, describe how the number of students served is cost-efficient and sustainable for future groups of students.

The beauty of Out & About with ECFE is that it rotates sites, so the money provided through the SEEF grant will provide experiences not just at one, but at multiple sites. The SEEF grant dollars are truly an investment in creating a sustained program. All of the learning tools will be rotated throughout the year to continue to provide fun, unique, and engaging activities for children while at the same time encouraging parents/caregivers to interact with their children in meaningful ways. The materials purchased with the SEEF grant will continue to be rotated year after year as our programming continues out in the community. Many of the children/families we service will not have access to such materials and manipulatives at home, making the impact even greater.

Evaluation Plan: State clear and measurable methods for assessing the degree to which the learning outcomes will be achieved.

We will measure the degree to which our learning outcomes are achieved through tracking attendance numbers as well as providing a parent/caregiver input & survey form at the end of each semester session. In the future we also hope to track the number of families that continue accessing our Out & About programming the following year(s) as well as how many engage in ECFE programming as well as preschool enrollment at Pearson Early Learning Center, as we know engaging families early sets children up for later success in elementary school and beyond.

In what ways will you acknowledge and promote SEEF's support for the project to students, staff, parents, and the community?

We plan to place stickers on each item purchased through the SEEF grant so that parents, families, as well as staff working at the community sites are aware that SEEF grant dollars made our programming possible. We also have marketing and flyers in multiple community locations, along with at Pearson Early Learning Center) and would include SEEF support on each piece of marketing, whether it be physical (flyers, posters, ECFE & Community Ed catalogs) or digital (Facebook, Community Ed website, etc.). The SEEF grant will also be mentioned at staff meetings at Pearson and community events held at Pearson Early Learning Center.

Budget Narrative

Please include a reasonable, accurate, and detailed budget for all costs associated with your project. Grants are awarded up to \$2500. See the Grant Guidelines & Criteria for items we will NOT fund. To be considered, grant applications must show a list of exact costs. You may attach additional documents to your application to support your budget request.

Total Project Cost: \$2, 278.00

Amount Requested from SEEF: \$2,278.00

List external sources of funding for your project.

Currently, none. I plan on reaching out to the Shakopee Library to see if they or any affiliated groups would like to sponsor the children's books, which would lessen my SEEF grant request by \$425.

Would partial funding allow you to implement the project? Yes

If the project is intended to be ongoing, how will you support it when the grant funding ends?

The grant funding will provide all materials necessary to build quality programming. If funds are needed in the future, we will look toward our ECFE budget to help support replacement costs, if necessary, as well as community events to help raise money to support Out & About with ECFE.

Please list your specific budget, including a detailed breakdown of materials, equipment, supplies, etc. Specific costs, not estimates, are required.

Please see the attached itemized document. Items shaded in gray are priority items.