

Ozona Community Center, Inc

Grant Summary

We are requesting a grant in the amount of \$1,250.00. This money will be used to enhance our existing pre-school and after school programs.

We base our tuition rates to meet our payroll expenses with all other expenses coming from fundraisers, donations and grants. The Board recently committed to making every effort to hire a certified teacher as our Director which we have succeeded in doing. In turn, our Director is improving the level of educational activities that are offered to the children enrolled. Fine motor coordination, site recognition of letters, numbers, colors and shapes and expression of thoughts are a focus of our improvement.

Our Director has 5 years experience as a kindergarten and pre-school teacher and has personal experience using the items requested in this grant. They are proven tools to improve handwriting and other fine motor skills along with the development of the concept of time, weather effects and site recognition of letters, numbers, colors and shapes. Tools to introduce the concept of sentence construction and expression of the children's thoughts as written words are also included.

Because of the increased number of children in our after school program, we do not have enough appropriately sized chairs for them. It is not only a requirement by Texas Child Care Licensing to have appropriately sized furniture, it is a must for the children to be comfortable in order to do their best at homework and other activities.

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Section I

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- b. Ozona Community Center, Inc
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Section II

- a. The purpose of the Ozona Community Center, Inc. is to provide year-round high quality, low cost child care for children ages 1 month through 13 years in the community of Ozona. This includes 9 months of quality pre-school and after school programs along with structured, age appropriate activities during the 3 month summer period.

Section III

- a. *Handwriting Without Tears:* This is a complete handwriting curriculum which will begin in our toddler classes (age 18 month to 3 years). In this first step the children are introduced to basic size, shape and position concepts of capital letters by using the capital letter wood pieces through teacher directed play. This learning process continues when the children are age 3 and 4 by using the slate chalkboards with chalk, wet and dry sponges. Using the chalkboard with a smiley face at the top left corner orients children and reinforces top to bottom, left to right directionality. The children write capitals and numbers in a consistent size by using the chalkboard. This activity in turn improves finger dexterity which then develops good pencil gripping ability. The 3 and 4 year olds then graduate to writing their alphabet and numbers on gray block paper. Both classes also will be exposed to words becoming sentences through sentence strips used by their teachers.

Monthly Calendar: These sets include theme decorated cloth calendars along with coordinated dates for each month of the year. It also includes a day of the week strip, seasons cloth and "Today's Weather" cloth. This activity exposes the toddlers and pre-schoolers to the concept of days of the week, months of the year, seasons and appropriate clothing for different weather conditions.

Poster Pals: These sets address the alphabet, shapes, numbers and colors. The children are exposed to these activities through books, songs and posters.

Chairs: Children must have appropriate sized chairs and tables in order to do homework and other learning activities.

b. The program participants will be children age 18 months through 13 years who attend Ozona Community Center, Inc.

c. The program budget is as follows:

<i>Handwriting Without Tears</i>	\$469.25
Calendar set	49.95
<i>Poster Pals</i>	253.90
15½ inch chairs (10)	<u>475.00</u>
Total	\$1,248.10

d. The deliverables will be:

Handwriting Without Tears
 Calendar set
Poster Pals
 10 - 15½ inch chairs

All of the above deliverables will be used to prepare the children for more formal learning in public schools. Introducing the children to the concepts of weather, letters, numbers, colors, and shapes increases their knowledge base by taking the first step in learning, which is exposure to new experiences.

e. The deliverables will be ordered upon receipt of grant money and will be expect to arrive within one month making the estimated start date March 1, 2008. The calendar set will be used year-round. The *Handwriting Without Tears* curriculum will be used primarily in the 9 month pre-school year program.