



**ALAMANCE PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
2020-2021**

TITLE: Alamance Partnership for Children Outdoor Learning Environment (OLE) Grant Application

ISSUE DATE: October 29th, 2020

ISSUING AGENCY: Alamance Partnership for Children
2322 River Road
Burlington, NC 27217
Attn: Kim Mietus
(336) 513-0063, ext. 107
kmietus@alamancechildren.org
www.alamancechildren.org

Applications must be received by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 20th, 2020**. *No applications will be accepted after the deadline.*

Interested parties should send application to Kim Mietus, Outdoor Learning Specialist at kmietus@alamancechildren.org, drop it off, or mail it to the Partnership office at the address above.

INTRODUCTION

The Alamance Partnership for Children (hereinafter referred to as the “Partnership”) has partnered with Impact Alamance to provide grants to create Outdoor Learning Environments (OLE) in child care centers and family child care homes in Alamance County. The Partnership is accepting applications to establish a one-time grant through application process. The purpose of this Request for Applications (RFA) is to create natural OLE’s at approved child care sites. Sites may also apply if funding is necessary to complete an outdoor learning environment that is under construction or partially completed. The grant award is dependent upon available funding and will include design plans, required training and online certificate course, and some materials/labor.

BACKGROUND

The Partnership is a private, nonprofit agency (501 c 3) dedicated to the vision that all children arrive at formal education healthy, happy, and ready for success in school and life.

Natural outdoor learning spaces in early childhood education include diverse features designed to promote structured and unstructured physical activity, play, and learning. Features that should be included in the design of an OLE are as follows:

- Outdoor gross motor features (e.g., climbing features or looping pathways);
- Outdoor learning settings (e.g., gardening area, loose parts station, or dramatic play area);
- A variety of non-toxic plants that are native to North Carolina;
- Natural features that enrich children's play and learning (mounds, terraces, slopes; a variety of ground surfaces (mulch, grass, pebbles); smooth rocks, wood or logs; non-poisonous flowering plants or garden plants and vegetables);
- A safe water play feature.

TIMELINE

- October 29th, 2020- Release date of RFA.
- November 4th, 2020- Informational meeting at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom. **Attendance is strongly encouraged.**
- November 20th, 2020- Completed applications due to the Partnership office by 5:00 p.m.
- December 2020- OLE Grant Committee will review applications.
- December 2020- Selected applicants will be announced.
- February 9th, 2021- Online certificate course begins

ELIGIBILITY:

- Applicants must have a minimum 4 star rated license in a Alamance County child care center or family child care home that serves children receiving child care subsidy and be in good standing with the North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education.
- Site must have outdoor space that can be fully committed to an OLE.
- Committed to completing the online certificate course.
- Although NC-PreK classrooms are not eligible to apply, sites that have NC Pre-K classrooms can apply to create an OLE for another age group.
- Applicants must demonstrate the ability to complete the project by September 30th, 2021.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- Request for Application (RFA) is issued to prospective Applicants.
- **All Applications must be received by the Partnership no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 20th, 2020.**
- The OLE Grant Committee may request a discussion with any applicant to clarify information on the application.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) must be completed prior to the start of work and incurring any expenses.
- All applicants will be notified of grants awarded by the Outdoor Learning Specialist, Kim Mietus.

APPLICANT SELECTION

Applicants will be selected on the following criteria:

- Strength of Application;
- Commitment to maintain the OLE beyond the grant;
- Ability and commitment to complete the project by September 30th, 2021.

Child Care Outdoor Learning Environment Grant Application

Site Name _____

Contact Name _____

Contact Email _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Site License # _____ Star Rating: _____

Number of children enrolled receiving subsidy:
 _____ Birth – 35 months _____ 36 months – 72 months

Tax ID Number (if applicable) _____

Please put a check mark by your level of skill in the following areas:

	None	Some	Much	Very Much
How much knowledge do you feel you have about Outdoor Learning Environments?				
How much knowledge do you have about the types of experiences children have in Outdoor Learning Environments?				
How much knowledge do you have about play & learning settings in an Outdoor Learning Environment?				
How much knowledge you have about the importance of children being active?				
How much knowledge do you have with community resources that can help you with your Outdoor Learning Environment?				
How much knowledge do you have about creating healthy menus that meet Go NAPSACC requirements?				

By initialing below, I am agreeing to the following statements:

_____ I understand and can commit to making sure that my staff and myself attend and actively participate in Outdoor Learning trainings and technical assistance.

_____ I understand that the director/owner and key staff from my site must enroll in the online certificate course, *Outdoor Learning Environments for Young Children*. At least one of these people must complete the course in order to continue moving forward with the grant.

_____ I understand that I am responsible for the ongoing regular maintenance of my OLE including beyond the grant period.

_____ I understand that I can reach out to the Outdoor Learning Specialist for support and assistance with my OLE.

_____ Due to COVID-19, I understand that times and dates regarding the grant may change.

Statement of Commitment:

I certify that our site will make a good faith effort to meet the project requirements for the OLE Grant Project and to fully participate in all the project activities.

Director/Owner Name (Please Print)

Director/Owner Signature

Date

Funding for this project provided by:

