



ALAMANCE PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS 2022-2023

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

ISSUE DATE: August 15, 2022

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

Applications must be received by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 26, 2022**. *No applications will be accepted after the deadline.*

Interested parties should send applications to Monika Marszalek, Early Childhood Specialist/ Outdoor Learning at mmarszalek@alamancechildren.org, or 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

- August 15, 2022- Release date of RFA.
- August 26, 2022- Completed applications with a letter of intent due to the Partnership office by 5:00 p.m.
- August 29, 2022- OLE Grant Committee will review applications.
- September 6, 2022- Selected applicants will be announced.
- September 12, 2022 - Online certificate course begins

ELIGIBILITY:

- Applicants must have a minimum 4 star rated license in an 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.
- Sites must have outdoor space that can be fully committed to an Outdoor Learning Environment.
- Commitment to completing the online certificate course paid by Alamance Partnership for Children.
- Commitment to participate in two Professional Development trainings provided by Alamance Partnership for Children.
- Commitment to visiting Alamance Partnership for Children Outdoor Learning Environment.
- 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 Spring 2023.

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 August 26, 2022**
- 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 Early Childhood Specialist/Outdoor Learning.

APPLICANT SELECTION

Applicants will be selected on the following criteria:

- Strength of Application (please attached **Letter of Intent** to the application)
- Commitment to completing the online certificate course.
- Commitment to participate in two Professional Development trainings provided by Alamance Partnership for Children
- Commitment to visiting Alamance Partnership for Children Outdoor Learning Environment.
- Commitment to maintain the OLE beyond the grant.

- Ability and commitment to complete the project by Spring 2023

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 created 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*. one of these people must complete the course to continue moving forward with the grant.

_____ I understand that ALL staff members must participate in two Professional Development trainings provided by Alamance Partnership for Children.

_____ I understand that I must commit to visiting Alamance Partnership for Children Outdoor Learning Environment.

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

_____ I understand that I can contact 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 is provided by:



