

## **Dear Foundation A**

Foundation A's willingness to invest in community efforts like education and children's health is inspiring. By supporting those children that are most in need you bring communities closer together. Client A's Child Development Center is a program that shares your value of wellness and whole child development. Client A is a non-profit that has worked to improve the lives of homeless and near homeless families and individuals in Little rock since 1987. Client A's CDC is one of two programs for children under Client A's umbrella. Our mission is to provide children with the highest quality early education and support the whole family. We have a vision of improving the quality of education our high-risk student population receives by building a sensory room to serve as a critical intervention for students with sensory processing difficulties. We invite you to partner with us by providing funding for this resource and improving the functional skills and learning environment for the students enrolled in our program.

As a child development center serving children in the homeless population, we find ourselves working to meet a great variety of developmental needs. Children experiencing homelessness are 50-70% more likely to suffer from a mental disorder than those in the general population (Zima, B, 1999). In our student population we have identified large deficits in sensory processing that inhibit our students' ability to learn and regulate their brain's negative reactions to external stimuli. We are committed to providing the specialized support our students need as evidenced by our conscious discipline curriculum and wrap-around services for families. Our expectation is that by implementing a well-designed sensory room to meet student needs, we will see quantifiable increase in engagement in learning and a decrease in symptoms of stress as reported by schools and therapy programs around the country.

Sensory rooms equip children with the tools to better self-regulate and help to minimize interruptions to classroom instruction due to sensory processing difficulties. A child that can effectively self-regulate has an enhanced ability to learn and respond appropriately to negative stimuli. The type of early intervention a sensory room for our students with special needs provides can have a long-term effect on student behavior and performance in academic settings. It is proven that a child's preschool education can be a determining factor in their future success. With your assistance for this project, we can help our most at-risk children overcome the obstacles they face in becoming successful citizens equipped to better the community.

We plan to design, construct, and implement use of the sensory room in a way that prioritizes safety and equity for all children in the program. A project committee would oversee the steps in the process, monitor our progress to goals, and ensure that the procedures and protocols for the room align to state special education standards and the program mission. Our method involves stakeholders at all levels including families, teachers, and program managers.

We believe this inclusive and intentional approach will lead to greater community investment with the resource and thus better attention and care for the children in the center. Our success, as with everything we do will be determined by the impact on student development and learning. Consistent and effective use of the sensory room intervention as represented by usage logs, behavior records, observations, and feedback from teachers, students, and parents will be evaluated.

We anticipate successful implementation of this resource will cost \$36,500. This includes the strategic room design and the installation of equipment as well as the development and conducting of training for staff and families on effective use of the space. Our project committee members are full-time employees and will not receive money from this grant for their work, but we will use a portion of funds to pay the contractors, vendors, and subject matter experts needed to design, install, and prepare the sensory room.

Client A's Child Development Center is a program committed to providing the highest quality early education to some of the most at-risk students. A large percentage of our student population suffers from sensory processing deficiencies that interrupt their learning and social emotional development. We believe that installing a well-designed sensory room that serves as an additional intervention in our conscious discipline program will help to equip students with self-regulation skills necessary to increase engagement in learning. Our CDC's expertise in caring for high-risk high-need student populations and the research supporting sensory rooms as an effective intervention make the installation of a sensory room space a logical next step for our program. We are asking that your foundation sponsor this critical resource for students by granting \$36,500 for project funding. The goals and objectives for this project align perfectly with the foundation's mission and vision for promoting health and well-being in communities through service to those most vulnerable.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
On behalf of Client A's Child Development Center,

D. Wilson  
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