

2017 Quality Improvement Grant Application

Need and Vision

The Marion County Public School preschool program has a need for funding in the category of Family and Community Engagement. Our school district has six big dreams, one of those dreams is *Ready, Set, Grow, Learning Begins at Birth*. To promote this dream in our community, we give every family who has a child born at our local hospital a book to begin reading with their child. Along with the book, we provide the family with information explaining the importance of reading to their baby 20 minutes a day. We have extended this program by giving books to those who have a baby born in another hospital, as well as those who have adopted a child and those who are foster parents or legal guardians. We celebrate these children each year with a community birthday where children are given free age appropriate books. It is our vision that every child have the opportunity to have someone read to them daily to help increase their language skills, provide an opportunity for parent/child interaction, and facilitate their love of reading at an early age. To ensure our vision that every child in Marion County have the opportunity to have a book for someone to read to them daily, we are bringing the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to Marion County. This program will provide every child registered a free book each month from birth to age 5. It is an amazing opportunity to put books in the hands of children in our community and not let their imaginations soar. As books are expensive and many families in our community must choose food, shelter, and clothing before spending money on books for their children. Also, many families have limited transportation situations and are unable to get to our local library. The *Dolly Parton Imagination Library* will build upon our current *Ready, Set, Grow*, dream in our district to put books in the hands of children.

Action Plan

Funds from the quality improvement grant will help our district fund the Dolly Parton Imagination Library for our community. By providing the children of Marion County, birth to age 5, with a free book every month, children will receive up to 60 free books before exiting the program. A free book each month provides families with the opportunity to read to their children, even when their financial situation does not allow for them to purchase books. We are breaking down the financial barrier to children having books in their hands and being exposed to the world books will open up for them. Children will have the opportunity to hold books, instead of cell phones and tablets in their hands. The opportunity to receive 60 books prior to enrolling in kindergarten will provide an opportunity to increase school readiness. Our preschool classrooms in the community and daycares in the community will be able to talk to children about the stories they are reading at home. This provides an additional opportunity

for family and community engagement. Our entire community will be able to come together and promote reading and literacy for our children.

Budget

The cost of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library is \$25 per child per year. We currently have 500 children birth to age 4 on our Ready, Set, Grow registry. The projected cost of the program for the first year is \$12,500. Included in the budget for this grant would be family reading nights with guest speakers and guest readers.

Item	Justification/Explanation	Cost	source
Dolly Parton Imagination Library	Provide free books to children birth to age 5	\$12,500	Grant Funds
Family reading night	Guest speaker	\$400	Grant Funds
Family reading night	Guest readers	\$400	In-kind
Newspaper ads	Ads for family reading night events	\$1000	Grant Funds
Parent resources	Additional resources for parents explaining the benefits of reading to you children	\$700	Grant Funds
Location for family reading nights	Cost to rent facility	\$400	Grant Funds
Meals	Meals for family night events	\$500	In-kind
Volunteer staffing for	administrative purposes of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library	\$3000	In-kind
Cost of additional children registered for the program	The cost above budgeted 500 children would be covered by the district	\$25 per child per year above 500 children	District Funds
Total		\$15,000	Grant Funds
Total		\$3,900	In-kind
Total		\$25 per child per year over 500 children	District Funds