



LIGHT Grant Application 2023

2023 LIGHT Grant
Cover Form and Guidelines



Name of individual, group or organization: Caylor-Nickel Fdn. Family YmeA - Early Learning Center

Contact name(s): Risa Reynolds, Director + Thom Miller, Executive Director

Address: 550 W. Dostman Road, Bluffton, IN 46714

Phone number: (260) 565-9623 Email Address: thom-miller@fwymea.org

Name of the program as it would appear on the grant award: Melody -

Outdoor Musical Instrument For YmeA Early Learning Center

Describe who the grant award will serve and approximate number affected: Caylor-Nickel

Fdn Family YmeA Early Learning Center - 60-70 children weekly

Dollar amount requested: \$2,500.00

Would the program be offered if only a *partial* grant from LIGHT is made? Yes

Summary paragraph of the grant award requested: Our request is for an outdoor
► May be utilized for part of the presentation.

musical instrument to help our Early Learning Center

children learn to harmonize with each other and

two would around them with an instrument called Melody.

Complete all requested items below:

- 1) This Cover Form
- 2) Project Narrative, 1-5 pages typed, including:
 - What need in the Community will this program address? Give evidence to substantiate your request. (i.e., data, letters of recommendation, etc.)
 - What do you want to do?
 - What is your timeline?
 - What results do you expect?
 - If partnering with other organizations, please list.
 - Describe the program and tell how the funds from the grant will be used based on your budget
 - Signature page: To include endorsement of the project or program by the requesting agency's Board of Directors. This page must include a signature of the Board president.
- 3) Detailed budget



Melody

Size: 24"W x 43"H x 16"D

- Finished height 22"
- Beautiful twinkling sound with 9 notes
- Please specify age group when ordering

PL212 In-ground (53 lbs.) \$2,520.00

PL1046 Portable (38 lbs.) 2,874.00



What need in the Community will this program address?

The Wells County Early Learning Center is located in the Caylor-Nickel Foundation Family YMCA at 550 West Dustman Road. Our ELC offers quality care to toddlers and preschoolers. Child care is provided Monday through Friday from 6 am – 6 pm. The center currently has the capabilities to meet the needs of 60 – 70 children weekly.

The YMCA Early Learning Center (ELC) partners with Wells County parents to provide a safe and nurturing learning environment that promotes a child's emotional, social, cognitive and physical development. We know that children's experiences, both at home and at the ELC, are the foundation for a lifelong love of learning.

The Wells County Early Learning Center (ELC) offers a high quality, developmentally appropriate program for toddlers and preschool children. The ELC is the only licensed early learning center in Wells County. We are proud to be part of the Indiana Paths to Quality, a program that grades a child care quality.

We are a not-for-profit organization committed to helping all children prepare for kindergarten by being surrounded by loving, caring role models. We work hard to eliminate barriers for families with financial hardships by offering financial assistance and accepting CCDF vouchers.

Our program provides an outdoor play area for our toddlers and preschoolers. Outdoor play is about more than exercise for kids. Unstructured physical activity not only improves children's health but also helps them develop social skills, explore their imagination and reduce their stress levels.

Similarly, exposure to music offers a range of benefits for children, including brain growth, language and math skills, and increased memory and concentration.

The Wells County Early Learning Center is requesting funding for our first outdoor play area musical instrument. Outdoor musical instruments provide kids of all ages with a fun way to express themselves and connect with other children while developing skills that will help them succeed at school and beyond!

Additionally, musical instruments are a great way to be inclusive! Music therapy has long been recognized as having a powerful therapeutic effect, and a growing number of studies suggest that playing musical instruments can have significant benefits for adults and children with developmental delays or special educational needs.

Our request is for an outdoor musical instrument to help our children who come to our Early Learning Center learn to harmonize with each other and the world around them.

What do you want to do?

The Wells County Early Learning Center Director Risa Reynold is requesting an outdoor musical instrument called the "MELODY" from a company called Kaplan Early Learning Center.

<https://www.kaplanco.com>. For more than 50 years, Kaplan Early Learning Company has been a champion for play. From their research-based curricula to enriching classroom environments and innovative technology solutions, Kaplan’s products and services inspire a lifelong love of learning in children and educators. They are architects of learning good and defenders of the imagination. They transform lives through play and outdoor musical instruments.

Outdoor musical instruments would be a wonderful addition to our outdoor playground by offering developmental, social, and emotional benefits to those who use them. They create unique outdoor settings that bring those in our Wells County community utilizing our ELC together through expression, curiosity, and FUN!

The **MELODY** has a beautiful twinkly sound with 9 notes in a small but elegant design. As one of the small instruments promoted by Kaplan Early Learning Company, this instrument feature includes:

- All Abilities, All Ages to utilize
- Sculptural, Interactive Play
- Alto Soprano Metallophone
- 9 Notes per Instrument
- In ground instrument
- Key/Scale: C Major Pentatonic
- Durable and Perfectly Tuned

Measures: 24"W x 43"H x 16"D **Weight:** 18 lbs.

What is your timeline?

If awarded the LIGHT grant, this musical instrument would be ordered to be placed in our playground for immediate use.

What results do you expect?

TOP 5 BENEFITS OF PLAYGROUND MUSIC EQUIPMENT:

1. Improves Language and Communication Skills

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow had a point when he described music as “the universal language.” Music classes and activities can actually help children improve their speech and reading skills.

Studies show that learning music helps to develop the left side of the brain, which is connected to language and reasoning. This could be because as children learn about music, they also learn how to:

- recognize different sounds
- follow rhythms
- identify rhymes

The key to these benefits is active participation. Music classes can be intimidating, but outdoor music stations and playground music walls provide a fun outlet for children to express themselves through music and learn essential communication skills (without even realizing the experience is educational).

2. Creates Emotional and Social Connections

Music inspires powerful emotional reactions in listeners. This is just as true for young children as it is for adults. Early childhood is full of emotions, and music can help children learn how to understand, express, and manage their feelings.

Outdoor musical instruments take this a step further by making music a collaborative experience, helping children connect with their emotions and each other. An outdoor musical instrument offers plenty of room for multiple players to work on a melody together.

Playing music as a group helps children develop their sense of empathy with others and better tune into other people's emotions. It can also help children improve their cooperation skills and their sense of social belonging.

3. Increases Memory, Attention & Concentration

Music can enhance memory, attention and concentration. Children learn to pay attention to the unique patterns within rhythms and how to focus on different musical elements, such as the melody and harmony.

Adding outdoor playground musical instruments enables children to work on these skills in a relaxed setting.

4. Makes Music Accessible to Everyone

One of the best things about playground musical equipment is anyone can use it, regardless of skill level. Because music is so influential in enhancing human development for young children, playing musical instruments has a profound effect on individuals experiencing developmental delays..

Outdoor instruments promote whole-body engagement and can help develop both fine and gross motor skills. The familiar sounds can also provide a sense of comfort and familiarity for those who are anxious about change.

In addition to helping individuals overcome any limitations, music can also add to their quality of life. Outdoor musical instruments enable you to add a splash of music to any setting.

5. Encourages Creativity and Joy

In addition to the positive effects music can have on development and mental health; it's also just plain fun!

Human brains are wired for music, so outdoor musical instruments give everyone, not just kids, a chance to express themselves. Simply making a series of sounds together can produce joyful memories and deeper emotional connections!

If partnering with other organizations, please list:

The Wells County Early Learning Center is part of the Caylor-Nickel Foundation Family YMCA which is part of the Greater Fort Wayne YMCA's. Thom Miller, Executive Director, oversees our local YMCA with Risa Reynold as Director overseeing the Wells County ELC.

Describe the program and tell how the funds from the grant will be used based on your budget.

The Wells County Early Learning Center is requesting \$2500.00 to purchase the \$2,520.00 MELODY musical outdoor playground equipment from Kaplan Early Learning Company, 1310 Lewisville Clemmons Rd, PO Box 609, Lewisville, NC 27023. 1-800-334-2074. Any additional funds needed will be raised through sponsorships, donations or provided through the yearly budget from the ELC.

DETAILED BUDGET:

REQUESTING \$2500.00

See attached – Shipping, handling and taxes will be picked up by the ELC due to requested amount does not fully cover the cost

WELLS COUNTY CAYLOR-NICKEL FOUNDATION FAMILY BOARD MEMBERS & SIGNATURE PAGE:

Jim Almdale

Ben Burman

Larry DeBolt

Ryan Dunwiddie

Derek Myers

Josh Nash

Alyssa Osburn

Aaron Sluder

Nikki Surbaugh

Julie Thompson

Alicia Hill, Caylor Nickel Fdn. Family Board President: Please accept this signature and the names of our board members as our approval for this grant proposal to the LIGHT Committee through the Wells County Foundation.

Alicia A. Hill