

To: Education Foundation of Indian River County C/O Mrs. Cynthia Falardeau      Date: August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
From: Valerie Savoie Guerra, Kindergarten Teacher, Citrus Elementary School

Name of project: **Enhanced Learning for K!**

Additional Information about the Project: **Enhanced Learning for K!** is an initiative that incorporates two evidence-based interventions using technology and enhancing Kindergartners' reading skills and achievement.

**1<sup>st</sup> Strategy:** Tapping into Games to Strengthen Phonological Awareness Using [DaisyQuest®](#)

Learning how to read is a process that is most effective when all reading components are effectively integrated. Through the use of data, and positive reinforcements, we would like to provide each students with the opportunity to use [DaisyQuest®](#), a research-based educational game that has been shown to substantially increase students' alphabetic skills and phonological awareness ([What Works Clearinghouse, 2006](#)). By incorporating the use of [DaisyQuest®](#) in centers, students will strengthen their understanding of rhymes, sounds (beginning, middle, ending sounds), phonemic segmentation, and counting the number of sounds in a word.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Strategy:** Increasing Book Access Through the Use of Technology and of Traditional Books

Access to high-quality books and good literature are key to supporting students' development of reading skills ([NICHD, 2000](#)). Furthermore, the use of technology in learning has been found to enhance student achievement ([Tingir et al., 2017](#)). Moreover, improving access to ebooks and providing students with book choices impact student reading enjoyment ([Ciampa, 2015](#); [Kucirkova, Littleton, & Cremin, 2017](#)), which also has an effect on educational attainment. In this perspective, we would like to incorporate the use of Ipads and multiple apps (such as [Epic!](#)) in literacy centers to better support students' reading. Through the use of the [Epic!](#) features, such as audio (read to me), text highlighting, text magnification, audio glossary, interactive text, rewards and badges, students will be engaged to interact with various fiction and nonfiction texts. Through the use of other apps, such as [Toontastic](#), students will strengthen their understanding of characters and settings by creating their own "cartoon" stories. We would also like to improve students' access to high-quality children's books by enhancing our classroom library.

Amount Requested: \$2,464.19

Total Project Cost: \$2,464.19.

Targeted population: Citrus Elementary School is a school situated in Vero Beach, Florida. It has a student population of 718 students (105 Kindergarteners), with a 43,9% minority rate ([FLDOE, 2018a](#)). The school serves a high-need community, with 71,4% of students qualifying for free/reduced lunch ([FLDOE, 2018b](#)).

Number of children: 15-18 students in Kindergarten (to account for potential student movements during the year).

Succinct Summary:

The Issue: Reading is a foundational skill that empowers students to become active learners and participants in the society. However, recent data from the FSA tests for our school shows that, despite attainment progress over the last few years, more work is needed to improve students' reading skills

([FLDOE, 2018 c, d, e](#)). Furthermore, among last year’s Kindergarten students attending 1<sup>st</sup> grade this school year, 80,7% of students have scored at a Mid-Kindergarten level or below on the English Language Arts section of IReady—a computer-based program used district-wide to provide instruction, remediation, and to assess students—with half of these students scoring at an Emerging or at an Early Kindergarten level at the end of their Kindergarten.

The Change: Through the continuous use of data, enhanced learning opportunities will be provided to meet the students’ needs and to improve overall Kindergarten students’ reading skills, to better prepare them with meeting the mastery levels expectations of primary and intermediate grades. More specifically, all students will improve their literacy and reading skills.

The Actions: High-quality instruction has been identified as pivotal in insuring students effectively learn how to read. We will continue using district’s provided resources (Wonders, Foundation, etc.), while implementing two targeted and research-based literacy strategies in an enhanced learning setting: 1) incorporating [DaisyQuest®](#) to strengthen students’ phonological awareness; 2) increasing book access through the use of technology (Ipad and apps) and varied books (in centers). Data will be used to monitor and to adjust support to each individual child.

Grant Oversight: Mrs. Savoie Guerra, Kindergarten teacher, will be responsible to implement the project and to monitor progress and results. Mrs. DiDomizio, assistant-principal, will provide the oversight for this project. Mrs. Savoie Guerra will be responsible for sustainability, which will be achieved through the use and the reuse of the material in subsequent school years and sharing results with colleagues.

Monitoring progress and results: IReady data (baseline & diagnostic data) will be used to monitor progress and results. Other classroom data will be used, such as: number of letters, sounds, and sight words recognized/student, number of books read/student (using [Epic!](#) and Ipad), etc..

Volunteers: No volunteer will be needed to implement the project.

Itemized Budget:

6 <a href="#">DaisyQuest</a> Apps (6 x \$2.99)	\$17.94
6 <a href="#">Ipad WiFi 32 GB</a> (6 x \$352.03)	\$2,112.18
6 <a href="#">protective cases</a> (6 x \$21.95)	\$131.70
1 charging station (6 Ipad with protective cases)	\$202.30
<b>Total Grant Enhanced Learning for K!</b>	<b><u>\$2,464.19</u></b>