



EARLY LEARNING CENTER BUSINESS PROPOSAL

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Statement of Purpose

Island Mountain Development Group seeks funding partnerships that requires \$5 million for building and infrastructure and \$290,000 for startup and \$780,000 for implementation, a total of \$6.07 million. Needs include:

Contracting to design and build an early learning space; creating indoor and outdoor learning environments that incorporate culture, traditions, and language; creating distance learning spaces; developing organizational infrastructure to effectively operate an early learning facility; identifying and hiring staff, including language and culture staff; developing language curriculum for early learning; subsidizing employee and FBIC member child care rates.

The sum will transition through the construction and implementation phase so that our program can operate at the highest level of quality.

Section 2

THE FINANCIALS

Fees. Operating Budget. Start-Up Budget. Staff Schedule and Overview. Revenue Projections.



THE BUSINESS

Description of the Need for the Business

The following plan has been developed to present a profile of a proposed new construction of a child care center in the town of Hays, Montana, and to seek immediate funding for the venture. The principals involved are highly qualified and bring a complementary mixture of child care and early learning knowledge, business experience, and construction expertise to the project.

Island Mountain Development Group (IMDG) seeks to develop an early learning facility to support successful employment and engagement of the individuals employed in the business ventures of the IMDG. Currently, there are only two family child care home providers in the Hays area and no early learning facilities for IMDG employees to access. The two family child care home providers are at capacity of less than eight children each and do not have space for serving additional children. Because of this, IMDG employees have begun taking vacation time to care for one another's children. This practice disrupts not only family stability, but also work engagement. It also inhibits positive child development practices and continuity of care. For families in our area, gaining employment with IMDG is a lifeline – and one they cannot afford to lose, but not having adequate stable child care can derail even the best of efforts. High-quality child care helps parents keep working and helps their children grow and thrive and, ultimately, become positive contributors to our Nations. With the construction of an early learning center on the IMDG campus, our valuable employees will have the peace of mind that their children are in a healthy, safe, and nurturing environment.

An early learning center is critical to IMDG's continued success because it will primarily support the 97% of our families that have indicated they would utilize child care and before- and after-school care – ensuring that, during their most critical years of development, children have safe, consistent caregiving and positive, enriching environments to grow to be the future leaders of our Nations. The demand for early learning services for our families has grown as our business grows. Of the 39 responses from employees we received, 26 have at least one child between the ages of zero and two and 16 have at least one child between the ages of three and five.

Early learning services will always be a need – and our facility will provide the high-quality, home-like, and professional environment that is critical for positive development. Our program will focus on delivering high-quality services in a professional and comfortable environment while also integrating our culture and traditions into the daily programming. We recognize families' wishes that their child be treated like an individual with their own set of needs and their desires to instill our Tribal values, culture, and language in their children. We are prepared to staff our facility with individuals that possess the best skills to offer a warm, supportive, and stimulating environment and to train them to ensure their knowledge in child safety and early learning meets high-quality standards. A quality program that feels like home takes expertise in early childhood, the financial support in which to create an appropriate environment, and the dedication of its creators. The goal of our early learning center is to provide the characteristics that constitute this described high-quality, culturally relevant care.

We will maintain a business pulse on the future needs and trends in the early learning market in the communities we are serving while we provide a critical service for our employees and the broader community. The short-term goal is to have the center fully licensed and operational to accommodate 72 children (ages 0 to 5) and 40 children (ages 6 to 12) by November 2020. The facility will be conveniently located at off Highway 66 on Old Hays Housing Road, just north of the IMDG eCommerce Call

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The Importance of Outdoor Play: Why our kids are going to play outside this winter, and yours should too, according to science



The benefits of outdoor play for children are significant in any season, with a scientifically proven link between outdoor activities and healthy brain development.

This winter, our kids will be getting outdoors as often as possible, both for the fun and health benefits outdoor play engenders as well as to break the cycle of screen time that is all too common during the colder months.



Research suggests that outdoor play can benefit the mental, emotional, and (of course) physical development of children.

In the words of a report released by the UMKC School of Education's Edgar L. and Rheta A. Berkley Child and Family Development Center, "Child's play is not just all fun and games." When kids play outdoors in a relatively unstructured manner, they enjoy the benefits of "growth and development of the brain, body, and intellect."

Yet according to a recent NPR report, the average child age eight and under spends around two hours and 19 minutes on a screen each day. A National Trust survey found that kids aged 10 to 16 spend fewer than 15 minutes engaged in "vigorous outdoor activity" each day.

And when the winter weather rolls in, most kids get outdoors even less, "despite indisputable developmental benefits of outdoor play."



But why? Why do kids spend so much less time outdoors when the weather gets cold? Do we worry they'll get sick? Or that they won't know what to do for fun? Or that they'll simply be too cold?

On closer inspection, reduced outdoor play during winter seems more a problem of our own making than it is due to colder temperatures.

Dr. Robert Murray, pediatrician, author, and board member of Action for Healthy Kids, an organization dedicated to pediatric health and the promotion of outdoor play, put it this way: "Our culture has developed a fear of changing seasons, but there's no distinct indoor or outdoor season." He added that each day provides an opportunity for "the quality 'kid time' needed to explore, create, build relationships, and accept new challenges without parental direction" while playing in the outdoors.

Granted, outdoor play during the winter requires a bit more effort than outdoor play during the spring, summer, or fall. You can't just push your kids out the door when it's freezing cold or snowing. But with a bit of extra effort, the outdoors in winter can be as enjoyable and beneficial for kids as the warmer seasons.

Dr. Murray told Business Insider that he sees the reduction in outdoor time during the winter as an issue of perception and inconvenience.

"The colder months can make getting kids outdoors a hassle for parents," Murray said, "as they fear [for their child's] safety and have mixed feelings about exposing their children to the cold weather. With well-insulated caps, mittens, gloves, socks and appropriate layers, kids can get outdoors too and enjoy some fresh air."

And if you're not sure if your child is well enough equipped for outdoor play during the winter, Dr. Murray has a radical idea ... just ask how they feel. "They'll let you know when they're cold!" he said. It takes longer to get my five-year-old son into his boots, snow pants, coat, hat, and mittens during winter than it does to dress him in shorts and sneakers during the summer, but I've got an extra few minutes to spare to make sure he can enjoy the benefits out outdoor play even in the depths of winter.



What's a parent to do when the winter weather truly is too severe for outdoor play, with subzero temperatures, howling winds, and driving snow? Dr. Murray recommended indoor activities that foster an appreciation for the outdoor winter environment.

"Screen time is inevitable these days," he said. "So finding ways to enjoy it for short periods of time with your kids is a win-win. Scroll through Pinterest and browse through YouTube to find fun activities kids can do and own" once they get back outside.

And once the weather permits, get the kids away from those screens and out the door!

I know that's what we'll do with our son this season.

Article from Business Insider, accessed on 12/20/2018 at <https://www.businessinsider.com/why-kids-should-play-outside-winter-science-2018-11>.