



**WACO ISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
COVER SHEET – PART II  
Application for Grant:  
2026-2027 Funding Cycle**

Assigned Grant Proposal #: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level(s): \_\_\_\_\_ # of Students DIRECTLY involved: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject Area(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Requested: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Grant Focus Area(s):** In order to be considered, Waco Education Foundation Innovation Grant proposals must fall under one or more of the E4 focus areas: early childhood development, enhanced programming for advanced students, extended education for staff, and emphasis on student performance. NOTE: In addition to meeting one of the E4 focus areas above, grant readers are especially interested in creative and innovative grant requests that target fine arts, STEM, literacy, or enrichment.

**(check all that apply)**

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Early Childhood Development                | Extended Education for Staff    |
| Enhanced Programming for Advanced Students | Emphasis on Student Performance |
| Fine Arts                                  | STEM                            |
| Literacy                                   | Enrichment                      |

## 53 Pint size pioneers with Phonological Awareness

Project Description: We have some items for phonological awareness (PA) but not enough to keep our students engaged with a variety of manipulatives to cover all areas of PA. PA is the foundation for reading readiness, and with this solid foundation our students will be successful in their education. The areas covered include letter and sound knowledge, rhyming, alliteration, onset rhyme, syllables, compound words, and words in a sentence. All of these are covered all year long and we need more material to offer a variety of ways to learn these skills.

1. Rationale: Phonological Awareness is the first step to reading readiness, without a solid foundation students will struggle in upper grades. As a district that struggles with students lagging in reading skills it is important to build a solid foundation in PA. This fact is well proven: Phonological awareness is critical for learning to read any alphabetic writing system (Ehri, 2004; Rath, 2001; Troia, 2004). Phonological awareness is even important for reading other kinds of writing systems, such as Chinese and Japanese. There are several well-established lines of argument for the importance of phonological skills to reading and spelling.

### Citation

Moats, L, & Tolman, C (2009). Excerpted from Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS): The Speech Sounds of English: Phonetics, Phonology, and Phoneme Awareness (Module 2). Boston: Sopris West.

2. Goals: The purchase of materials and manipulatives will give our students a chance to take control of their learning in an environment with clear learning outcomes.

3. Plan of Operation: Order materials, once the project is funded, usually after September. Products should be delivered by December. We will have an unpacking party with students and parents once all material is received. Then we will start placing materials in the centers for students. We will take pictures of students engaged with material throughout the year.

4. Communication & Dissemination: We will send a group photo of students and all the new material upon receiving it. We will send out an email and invite the Foundation to observe students in action with all the new material. The lead teacher will speak at staff development about how the grant has impacted her students and encourage teachers to apply next year.

5. Evaluation: The proposed project will be measured to determine its success by observations of the student's understanding of objectives being taught and practiced in centers or small groups. The students should show signs of divergent thinking, cooperation and problem-solving with a clear understanding of PA skills. We will also use data from district testing of letters and sounds and our CLI data BOY vs EOY data.

6. Long Term Implications: The material will be used for many years as they are made of durable material that is tested with children. The long-term impact on our students will be divergent thinkers, cooperation and problem-solving with a clear understanding of PA skills for their future education.

7. Key Personnel: The key personnel that will carry out the project will be the Pre-K teachers and aides.

8. Budget and Budget Narrative/Justification: Our budget includes 55 items with some being multiple parts or sets. The first three lines 23,24,and 25 are snap and match games 2 full sets ending, beginning, and rhyming sounds, and one more ending and beginning game (one teacher has the rhyming set already) the price of line 23 ending game is 29.99, line 24 beginning is 29.99 and line 25 complete sets are 86.99 each  $\times 2 = 173.98$ . These games can be used in centers or small groups to reinforce beginning, ending, and rhyming sounds. Line 26 is a translucent letter builder, 3 sets at 39.99 each  $\times 3 = 119.97$ . This will be used on the light table for tracing letters to develop fine motor skills. Line 27 is Rhyming sounds Phonemic awareness box for 59.99 each  $\times 3 = 179.97$ . This set has cards and manipulatives to match rhyming words to enhance learning to rhyme. Line 28 Launch and learn language games at 119.00 each  $\times 3 = 357.00$ . This game will engage students in beginning, rhyming and Alphabet learning in a fun hands on experience. Line 29 Ending sounds phonemic awareness box at 59.99 each  $\times 3 = 179.97$ . This game is used in small groups and centers that includes cards and manipulatives to gain ending sound recognition. Line 30 Linking letter monkeys uppercase at 29.99 each  $\times 3 = 89.97$ . These manipulatives will add fun to learning our uppercase letters. Line 31 lakeshore alphabet cones at 29.99 each  $\times 3 = 89.97$ . These cones have upper and lowercase letters and will help our students learn letter knowledge/ recognition. Line 32 Splash two syllable word games. This game will allow students to practice syllables while teaching corporations through a fun fast pace game. Line 33 touch and read syllable word match at 59.50 each  $\times 3 = 178.50$ . This set includes games with two, three and four syllable word games. This can be used in a group, center or individually as a tool to reinforce syllables. Line 34 Phonemic awareness folder game library at 39.99 each  $\times 3 = 119.97$ . This set has 10 self-check folder games that students can practice beginning, rhyming and syllables at centers. Line 35 simple sentences instant learning center at 39.99 each  $\times 3 = 119.97$ . This set has enough material for 4 students at a time to develop sentence structure skills/ words in a sentence. Line 36 vocabulary folder game library at 39.99 each  $\times 1 = 39.99$ . This library will help non-English speaking students learn common words through games. Line 37 Catch a letter magnetic learning game at 39.99 each  $\times 1 = 39.99$  will be used in our sensory center to reinforce learning letters. Line 38 light table alphabet tracing tiles at 39.99 each  $\times 3 = 119.97$ . Students can lay paper over the letters and draw/trace the letters to help with letter recognition and fine motor skills. Line 39 Splash jr reading readiness games at 59.99 each  $\times 3 = 179.97$ . This kit has 5 games. Beginning, middle, ending

sounds, rhyming, and alphabet, these will encourage students to learn PA skills in a fun interactive game. Line 40 What's the rhyme sorting houses at 39.99 each x 3 = 119.97. This kit includes 10 houses and 50 cards with self-checking answers on the back of houses; the students will be able to play this in centers while learning rhyming words. Line 41 tactile lowercase letters at 16.99 each x1 = 16.99. These cards can be shared between the classes and will allow students to learn letters with a tactile surface. Line 42 Theme book library at 359.00 each x3 = 1077.00. This set covers 8 themes and has 40 books that students will have in a variety of centers to read or look at with a friend or alone. Our students love to look at books and we want to offer a variety of new books to our collection. Line 43 Rhyming sounds learning puzzles at 12.99 each x3 = 38.97. This box has 12 puzzles that have only correct fittings so it gives reinforcement of learning correct rhyming skills. Line 44 Phonological awareness magnetic activity at 29.99 each x3 = 89.97. The box comes with 15 different mats and magnetic pictures; this will help students learn PA while matching magnetic pic to mats. Line 45 budget is 3431.04

