

FY2022 Buncombe County Early Childhood Grant Report

Organization Name:	Evolve Early Learning	
Project Name:	Together We Rise at Evolve Early Learning	
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)	x	Quarter 1 (July 1, 2021 - September 30, 2021)
		Quarter 2 (October 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)
		Quarter 3 (January 1, 2022 - March 31, 2022)
		Quarter 4 (April 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022)

Narrative summary of grant related activities

Please provide brief responses that fit within the box provided

Overall project updates:	<p>We have jumped right in to using our grant funds to create inclusive and intentional learning environments that welcome children to explore and grow their foundational skills. Our students love the new child-size play areas and materials. We are pleased with the response we have received from the community this year. We are being recommended by specialists, families, staff, OTs, and therapists. We have given 8 raises in June and 4 More Raises in October. We gave hazard pay/bonuses for staff beginning the 2021-22 school year. We used grant funds to onboard two new staff members and pay August's payroll which allowed for the bonuses in September and for us to smoothly transition to 3 preschool classrooms. We plan on raising wages again with the stabilization grants. We provide nutritious meals that excite both children and families. We have even been contacted by a university faculty member who wants to explore potential benefits of food programs like ours. The funding provided here helped us have a bridge month so that we could change CACFP partners and upgrade to a more automated system saving us many hours of work. Likewise our new computers help staff communicate with families, each other, lesson plan, teach, attend trainings, and more! We have increases classroom libraries by over 60 books that center on social and emotional subject, diversity, empowerment, creativity, and acceptance. Our new printer is also saving us time and money (and headaches!) We also have Please take a moment to check out our Slideshow to see our menu and more: https://tinyurl.com/yfrlk92k</p>
Activities related to increasing equity, diversity and inclusion:	<p>We are serving 33 unique children in 3 classrooms. (20% Black, Hispanic, or Biracial student.) We have two children who are in process of being adopted and experienced early trauma and neglect. We recognize a major piece of our work will be learning about our communities needs and finding ways to partner with organizations remove barriers and empower families. Sadly, many families do not qualify for vouchers and/or are experiencing hardships like homelessness or chronic health challenges that make it challenging to work. We have been able to serve two young learners through this grant and their involvement in our program has supported mom to get some needs met. We have many of our most used documents and newsletter translated for our Spanish speaking families. We are offering free speech screenings for all children.</p>

<p>Activities related to increasing operational excellence:</p>	<p>Realizing Reggio & Equity- “Our school follows the Reggio Emilia philosophy which states that the environment is the third teacher. While at evolve we have always striven to create peaceful, aesthetically pleasing Environments with rich play provocations, before we received this grant money we were severely impeded in our ability to do so by a lack of funding. Even Goodwill and do it yourself efforts have their limits. With this grant funding, we have been able to afford the high quality educational materials that our students need for us to lift them to the next level of learning and discovery. Also, we have begun to make great strides in our child assessment process so that student data can be utilized to inform instruction and have reflected on it meaningfully as co-teachers. Finally, the funding has allowed us to increase the diversity of our classrooms and the literature we use in our lessons which we have seen to have a positive affect on the children’s acceptance of diversity in the school community and beyond.” -Lisa, Masters Level Teacher</p> <p>July 10th & September 9th- Empowerment Education Staff Training- Vision Mapping with i.b.mee July 13th- Community Connection -Community Connection October 13. Teacher/Staff/i.b.mee connecting a learning Onboarding 2 New Staff Members August, Hiring a financial expert, paying insurance for the year.</p> <p>Scholarships- 1 full Equity, 1 partial Inclusion, 30% total serve with scholarship/subsidy, Teacher support and coaching is having a positive effect on children and family communication.</p> <p>We have started the temporary ECERs Star rating process. We have out window open next month. We have a good chance at a 5 Star rating. We have had a lead teacher our for a month and a new staff member starting so it isn’t “ideal” but we are making it work and our kids are thriving.</p> <p>We have hired an expert to help with all things financial. This will help us navigate the next phase of sustainability.</p> <p>Please see our slide show for more information and pictures! https://tinyurl.com/yfrlk92k</p>
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Progress toward annual goals

Measure	Annual Goal	Actual Results (Enter Data) Please only include new data for the specific quarter				Progress toward Annual Goal
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
# of children with special rights and accommodations served within mainstream classrooms	4	5				5
# of new slots created, by student age	12	11				11
- Student age less than 1 yr		0				
- Student age greater than 1 & less than 2		0				
- Student age greater than 2 & less than 3		3				
- Student age greater than 3 & less than 4		8				
- Student age greater than 4 yrs		0				
# of total slots maintained, by student age	22	22				22
- Student age less than 1 yr		0				
- Student age greater than 1 & less than 2		0				
- Student age greater than 2 & less than 3		0				
- Student age greater than 3 & less than 4		4				

- Student age greater than 4 yrs		18				
# of Child Care Subsidy slots	7	3				3
# of slots scholarshipped through the grant	3	3				3
# of unique students served	22	33				33
Enrollment percentage	100%	97%				97%
# of children on wait list, by student age		15				
- Student age less than 1 yr		2				
- Student age greater than 1 & less than 2		1				
- Student age greater than 2 & less than 3		8				
- Student age greater than 3 & less than 4		3				
- Student age greater than 4 yrs		1				
Student attendance rate	85%	82%				82%
Student achievement on school readiness assessment (meet or exceed standards)	80%	TBD				0%
Teacher retention	90%	87%				87%
Teacher attendance	85%	90%				90%

Comments:

Teacher Retention- 2 staff who left- 1 left due to the uptick of COVID and the Delta Variant and wanting to keep her child out of public schools. The other left to move to California for family. Student attendance rates are something we hope improve as less siblings seem to be needing to quarantine from elementary schools. We are also working to partner with families to remove barriers like fear of judgement and transportation. We are also serving two after school student-leaders from Sandhill Elementary (Ages 6 & 8) who work with the preschoolers to learn social skills and to ease the transition to kindergarten. They are former students and siblings.

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Student demographics (if applicable)

	Actual Results (Enter Data)				Student Count
	Please only include new data for the specific quarter				
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Race/Ethnic Categories					
American Indian or Alaska Native	0				0
Asian	0				0
Black or African American	3				3
Hispanic or Latino	2				2
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0				0
White	26				26
Multi-race	2				2
Total	33	0	0	0	33

Comments:

Due to the high level of individual needs and our newer staff, we have made the difficult decision to keep our class sizes very low. This why we have 33 students. Of our 33 students, 5 have special needs and 4 have been kicked out of other facilities. We would like to continue navigating the challenges over building relationships with diverse neighbors during a pandemic. See our slide show for more information:

<https://tinyurl.com/yfrlk92k>

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Use of funds to date and any budget considerations

Spending Category	Starting Budget	Total Spending (Enter Data)				Amount Remaining
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Personnel	\$ 18,670	\$ 19,214				\$ (544)
Travel/Training	\$ 6,750	\$ 144				\$ 6,606
Technology	\$ 6,190	\$ 4,865				\$ 1,325
Curriculum/Assessments	\$ 2,356	\$ 295				\$ 2,061
Licensing/Dues						\$ -
Nutrition	\$ 3,650	\$ 3,779				\$ (129)
Transportation						\$ -
Supplies/Materials	\$ 7,982	\$ 10,466				\$ (2,484)
Building Maintenance/Repair						\$ -
Rent/Occupancy/Utilities						\$ -
Furniture	\$ 8,150	\$ 9,340				\$ (1,190)
Playground/Outdoor space	\$ 29,502	\$ 5,380				\$ 24,122
Printing/Marketing/Website/Postage	\$ 4,650	\$ 693				\$ 3,957
Admin Expenses (Legal, Accounting, Insurance, etc.)	\$ 7,100	\$ 7,421				\$ (321)
Other (please list)	\$ 23,000	\$ 4,050				\$ 18,950
Total	\$ 118,000	\$ 65,645	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 52,355

Comments:

Taxes for materials and furniture orders are within the Supplies and Materials cost. Subtract 2,000 from the OTHER category. Material and furniture costs are very high right now. We are finding what we budgeted for and what we can get are different due to shortages and price spikes. We are working to apply for additional grants and continuing to use CACFP and sliding scale tuition to increase our ability to serve more children from the global majority.