

AMARILLO EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION

GRANTS-TO-TEACHERS  
APPLICATION

**GRANT NO. 28**

**LEARNING BY DOING**



**AMARILLO EDUCATION FOUNDATION**  
**Grants-to-Teachers Application**

Grant submission due date: **February 29, 2008**

Date of Submission: February 28, 2008

**Applicant(s) Name(s)**  
**Jennifer Villalpando**  
**Brooke Bevill**  
**Darlene Martin**

**AISD Position**  
**First Grade Teacher**  
**First Grade Teacher**  
**First Grade Teacher**

**Campus: Wills**

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**Title of Project/Program:** Learning by Doing

**Amount Requested:** \$2,400.00

**Summary of Project/Program**

**Provide a one (1) paragraph summary of the program/project for which this grant funding is being requested in 600 words or less.**

With a motto of "Believe and you will achieve", Wills Elementary, established in 1927, serves 380 students in an attendance area bounded by 7th Street, Western to Alabama along the railroad track to Austin St., and Wolflin St from Western to I-40 near Paramount St. January 2008 data regarding students reveals 88% are classified low socio-economic and 53% are educationally at-risk. Wills is a Recognized school based on the TAKS test. We are striving to have 100% of students in grades 3-5 pass the Math TAKS test. The proposed Learning by Doing Project will provide students with the opportunity to learn using hands-on manipulatives and activities. Learning by Doing Project implements AISD's philosophy as noted in the core values: student performance: *"The district's focus is to improve the academic performance of all the students it serves as demonstrated through excellence in teaching and learning. Teaching is aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and focused to meet our student's needs in order to foster the skills necessary for their future success. Learning is evaluated, in part by performance on state assessments, as well as other important student achievements.* The manipulatives will be stored in the first grade classrooms, but will be shared with other grade levels as needed. Resources books will be housed in the teacher resource area and will be available for check-out by all teachers.

### **Category One: Purpose Served/ Need for Project/Program**

**Describe the need and/or purpose served by this proposed project/program by providing any relevant supporting data/documentation. Cite specific elements of the campus improvement plan and/or district standards addressed by the project/program.**

There is a need at Wills Elementary School to improve math instruction by using concrete manipulatives before moving to the abstract representation in order to improve test scores and accountability ratings. The Campus Improvement Plan establishes a clear need for this proposal in Goal #1 which states students will demonstrate academic success in Reading, Writing, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Students who are actively involved in structured activities develop understanding and the ability to apply the skills. According to learning theory based on psychologist Jean Piaget's research, children are active learners who master concepts by progressing through three levels of knowledge—concrete, pictorial, and abstract. The use of manipulatives enables students to explore concepts at the first, or concrete, level of understanding. When students manipulate objects, they are taking the necessary first steps toward building understanding and internalizing math processes and procedures. When manipulatives are used, students can touch and move objects to make visual representations of concepts. The same manipulatives may be used to teach grade level TEKS, remediation of TEKS from previous grade levels, and acceleration of learning for advanced students. The use of manipulatives allows the teacher to create learning centers where students use manipulatives in their own investigation and learning of specific TEKS while the teacher works with other students in small groups of teacher directed learning.

### **Category Two: Program/Project Objectives/Parameters**

**Provide a detailed description of the quantifiable objectives of the program/project to be implemented.**

This project will be quantified by the percentage of students passing TAKS in grades 3-5 in future years as well as students performing on grade level as tested by six week benchmark assessments during their first grade year. We are also expecting 90% of students to be performing on grade level as assessed by the six weeks benchmark assessments.

**Approximately how many students will be directly impacted by this project/program?**

These manipulatives will be used mainly in the three first grade classrooms, but will be available to teachers in other grade levels to use in their classrooms. The resource books will be available to all teachers in grades PreK-5. This project will impact 66 students at a minimum and has the potential to reach the 380 students enrolled at Wills.

**When would the project/program be initiated?**

The project will be started as soon as funds are available and materials arrive on campus. Because the manipulatives and resource books are timeless, they will continue to be used for years in the future.

### **Category Three: Assessing Effectiveness of Program/Project**



Hands-on Math Centers	3	Lakeshore	\$99.50	\$298.50
Magnetic Patterning Kit	3	Lakeshore	\$29.95	\$89.85
Clipboard Math	3	Lakeshore	\$19.95	\$59.85
Fact Family House	3	Lakeshore	\$29.95	\$89.85
Spin and Solve Addition	3	Lakeshore	\$29.95	\$89.85
Time Pocket Chart	3	Lakeshore	\$29.95	\$89.85
Weight Measurement Center	3	Lakeshore	\$29.95	\$89.85
Measurement Center	3	Lakeshore	\$29.95	\$89.85
Winter Wonders Gr. 1-2	1	AIMS	\$21.95	\$21.95
Fall into Math/Science K-1	1	AIMS	\$18.95	\$18.95
Sensational Springtime K-2	1	AIMS	\$21.95	\$21.95
Glide into Winter w/Math/Sc K-1	1	AIMS	\$18.95	\$18.95
Spring into Math/SC K-1	1	AIMS	\$18.95	\$18.95
Under Construction K-2	1	AIMS	\$21.95	\$21.95
Primarily Books K-3	1	AIMS	\$61.95	\$61.95
Primarily Bears K-6	1	AIMS	\$18.95	\$18.95
Bats Incredible 2-4	1	AIMS	\$18.95	\$18.95
Mostly Magnets 3-5	1	AIMS	\$18.95	\$18.95
It's About Time K-2	1	AIMS	\$21.95	\$21.95
Counting on Coins	1	AIMS	\$21.95	\$21.95
Awesome Addition & Super Sub 2-3	1	AIMS	\$21.95	\$21.95
Hundred Penny Pie	2	AIMS	\$15.95	\$31.90
		Total		\$3,019.87

**Category Five: Innovation/Adaptation**

**Is this project, or a similar one, being implemented elsewhere in the district?**

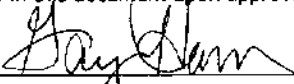
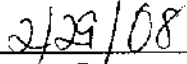
We know of no specific project, but know that many teachers use manipulatives and hands-on activities in their classrooms.

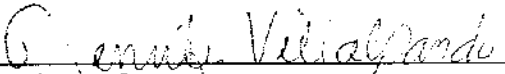
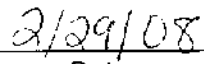
**Have adaptations to an existing program been made to address the specific needs pertinent to this proposal? What are these changes?**

**If not, did you design/create it yourself?**

**If it is not your creation, how did you learn about such a project?**

The applicant and the campus acknowledge that funding is not guaranteed under this program and that this application may be declined for any and all reasons based upon the discretion of the Grants-to-Teachers Application Review Committee and the Amarillo Education Foundation Board of Directors. The applicant and the campus certify that all information in the this application is true and correct and accept the responsibility to implement the project/program as described in this document upon approval of all or portions thereof.

  
Principal's Signature   
Date

  
Applicant Signature (If multiple applicants, only ONE SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED.)   
Date

**Upon completion , forward to Susan Stevenson,  
Amarillo Education Foundation - Education Support Center  
See other contact information at top of Page One.**