



Sudbury Education Resource Fund

PROJECT TITLE

School Sensory Paths

ANTICIPATED START & END DATES OF PROJECT

July 2020

TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED

\$5,447.00

APPLICANT 1

* Jessie Caldahari

POSITION

3rd Grade Teacher

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

One Elementary School

EMAIL

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APPLICANT 2

* Riley Suhandri

POSITION

Title I 3rd Grade Teacher

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

One Elementary School

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Tell us about your project idea

[Research](#) in fields of both psychology and education show strong correlations between movement breaks and learning. Repeated studies show that just 90 seconds of movement after more than 30 minutes of not moving can reset the mind to further process or take in more information. At our school we look for ways to give students (and adults) opportunities to reset throughout each day.

By strategically placing bright, engaging [visual movement prompts](#) - sensory pathways - on the hallway floors throughout our school we aim to enrich the emotional well being of students (and adults, too) as they travel between spaces (i.e., entering the school, moving between classrooms and specials, recess, lunch, assemblies, etc.). The sensory pathways also reinforce basic literacy and they are so welcoming it is difficult to *not* interact with them!

*Names have been changed

What are your objectives?

Our objective is to get students to move more often. To us this means that we, as the teachers, need to be more intentional about providing opportunities for and physically leading students through a variety of movement experiences.

We know that sensory play builds neurological connections within the developing brain's growth and its thinking pathways. As thinking pathways strengthen, a child's inclination for and ability to work through more complex learning tasks builds. And that's just what we want to happen for all of our students every day!

What are your project activities?

The primary activity is the last activity - having students use the sensory pathways daily. To get to that point, the vinyl applications will need to be installed. Three hallways have been identified for installation because they are locations where student traffic is high and they are main connectors to all the other hallways. Before the vinyl applications are installed the floors will need to be washed and the waxed removed, all of which has been discussed and is supported by the custodial staff.

As students return to school in the fall the sensory paths will welcome them! The paths are very self-explanatory inviting students to be playful. And teachers will also model interacting with pathways as they lead students through them.

What is your timeline?

Installation will occur in July 2020 when the school is in the process of deep cleaning and stripping/refinishing of the floors.

How will you assess your project's success?

Our principal has agreed to use a few minutes at several staff meetings to collect data from our colleagues the first few months of school on how students are responding to the sensory pathways behaviorally and emotionally. We will be collecting data both at the classroom level and individual student level. At the classroom level, we will be asking teachers to rate how engaged their students are in the sensory path. Do they use it? Do they seem to enjoy it? How has the sensory pathway impacted hallway transitions as a class (e.g. walking from classroom to cafeteria or specialists)? When students enter the classroom after using the sensory path, how long does it take them to transition into the task at hand? Is this time different or similar to the amount of time it takes to transition without the use of the path?

We are also going to assess the use of the sensory pathway as an individual intervention for children who need a movement break or other classroom break. We will ask teachers questions such as, "How often in the last two weeks have you used the sensory pathway as an intervention for children who needed a movement break?" "How often in the last two weeks have you used the sensory pathway as a reward activity for students who you felt would benefit from it?" "How effective is the use of the sensory pathway as a movement break for students? (Very, somewhat, not at all)." We will also include open response opportunities for teachers to reflect on if and how they have seen the sensory path working to better prepare students to engage in the learning

process.

We anticipate these surveys will take teachers approximately 5 minutes to complete. We do not want to burden teachers with additional work, but are interested in the ways in which the sensory path impacts classroom and individual students. We will also share the results of these surveys with the school staff at faculty meetings and provide the opportunity for staff to share how they have used the sensory pathway to benefit the student population.

How are you collaborating with colleagues, if applicable?

This proposal is a result of collaboration between grade level teachers, a Title I specialist, and the Physical Education teacher at our school. Our group will introduce the pathways to our colleagues when we return in the fall for our first staff meeting (an interactive teacher "field trip" of course!). We will also ask our colleagues to collaborate with us to collect data about how students' are might be impacted by the use of the pathway.

What additional preparation/training is required for the implementation of your project, if any?

None. The installation will happen during the natural timing and cleaning of the school. The installer will come to our school to help us, at no additional cost.

The final part of installation is ensuring the care of the applications.

"We recommend not using any floor cleaning machines, as they will damage the graphics. Pulling or dragging anything over the graphics will cause damage. Using harsh chemical cleaners will damage the Sensory Path graphics. PLEASE NOTE: Use only soap & water or Isopropyl Alcohol for cleaning. We recommend waxing over the graphics which is the ultimate protection!"

How will you extend the impact of this grant?

Our vision is to start with three pathways and then based on student engagement and the data we collect install additional pathways where students move through the building most frequently.

How will you communicate your results to colleagues and the community?

Our plan to share the installation and the use of the sensory paths with the community at large will draw upon photos of students using the pathway and accompanying explanations of it's value for school and classroom newsletters, video demonstrations for Open Houses, and presentation during family school visits.

Please indicate what SERF funds will be used for (check all that apply).

Materials

Describe needed materials and their costs:

The sensory pathway applications are printed on 3M vinyl material to provide high quality color, adhesive strength, and durable anti-slip laminate.

Item Description

Quantity Estimated Cost Link

Floor Decals Blast Off to Space Theme	1	\$1,590	Blast Off to Space
Floor Decals Nature Walk Theme	1	\$1,810	Nature Walk
Floor Decals Wild Wilderness	1	\$2,047	Wild Wilderness
Installation		Included	
Total		\$5,447	

Is this project contingent on receiving funds from other sources in addition to those requested in this proposal? Please explain.

No

What additional information would you like to share with us?

None

This project and grant application has been discussed with my building principal.

Yes, final sign off from [Principal] on 11/07/19.

BY ACCEPTING FUNDING I/WE AGREE TO: (PLEASE CHECK ALL BOXES)

- Submit detailed accounting to SERF regarding funds expended as part of this grant.
- Submit a final project report within thirty (30) days of completing this grant.
- Provide a testimonial or description of response by students and/or staff to the grant.
 - Publicize project to parents/teachers via email, social media, classroom bulletins, school newsletter.
 - Collect/submit captioned photographs, work samples, and/or other visuals for publicity purposes.
 - Label all items purchased with the grant funds with notice: "Provided by SERF".
 - Ensure statements and/or press releases describing project include: "This project is supported by a grant from the Sudbury Education Resource Fund."
 - Recognize that providing accounting, reporting and publicity items listed above is a condition of funding and therefore is my/our obligation as a grant recipient.