

Project Title: **Listen to Learn, Across the Curriculum**

1. Describe the project.

Kindergarten teachers at Six to Six will purchase books and accompanying CD's for students to enhance their emerging reading skills. The books and CD's will support our kindergarten literacy, science, and social studies curriculum. Students will listen to the books read aloud while they follow along with the print.

2. Describe the need for the project in your program.

Listening to books read aloud broadens students' experiences. Having books on CD's gives students more opportunities to hear books. Books specifically about community helpers, plants, food and nutrition, seasons and weather are usually too challenging for this skill-level. These are all units and themes we teach at Six to Six. These units are standards based and align with Connecticut State Department of Education standards. Having books that children can listen to, as well as follow the print would broaden student learning. Each kindergarten class has a listening center. Teachers have a limited number of books on tape. Teachers supplement these out of their own funds or borrow from town libraries.

3. Describe the nature of the student population to be served by the project.

Six to Six serves students from the urban Bridgeport and suburbs of Fairfield, Stratford, Trumbull, and Monroe. We now include students from other towns such as Ansonia and Shelton. A large percentage of our students are eligible for free or reduced lunch. Our student body is diverse by race, ethnicity, and socio-economic level. While these books have been chosen specifically for the kindergarten grade, they will be available to pre-k and upper grade teachers as they fit into their curriculum. These books could potentially benefit students in many grades.

4. List the major student learning objectives of the project.

Students will be exposed to a wider range of authors and genres through our listening centers. Students will gain knowledge of science and social studies concepts while improving their reading skills. Students will make advances in their writing skills as they respond to books they listen to at the listening center.

5. Describe the instructional strategies to be used and the related student activities.

Students will be carefully taught how to independently run the CD players. Students will be introduced to the books through whole group "picture walks." New vocabulary and concepts will be explained in context.

Students will independently listen to the CD and follow along with the book – in partners. They will subsequently respond to the book through drawing, writing, discussion, or in other manners.

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6. Outline the timeline for the project.)The project must be completed within one year. Projects completed in the spring will be presented to the Board of Directors in the fall. Projects completed in the fall will be presented to the board of Directors in the spring.)

Books and CD's will be purchased as soon as funding is available. I will plan how and when the listening center will be included in science and social studies units, as well as fiction reading and writing. I will design methods of student response to books at the listening center. Assessment of science and social studies units will include student responses to books. The science and social studies units that will include these books and CD's mostly occur in the winter and spring, so all instruction and assessment can be completed this year. Other kindergarten teachers will have the opportunity to begin incorporating these books and CD's into their lesson plans.

7. Describe what you believe the long-term benefits of this project will be for your students. Long-term benefits of this project include increased understanding of science and social studies concepts (units including community helpers, seasons and weather, food and nutrition, and plants). Reading and writing skills will improve as these skills are integrated into real life. Students' comprehension skills will improve as they practice lessons taught in Readers Workshop at the listening center.

“Research has shown that combining reading and listening through the use of audio books or test-to-speech programs improves the literacy skills of struggling readers, including those with learning disabilities. Reading comprehension, listening comprehension, phonological awareness and blending, and naming skills have shown to be improved with a combined reading-listening program. Listening while reading helps children learn the patterns of language, the obvious ‘code’ of letters and words on the page as well as less obvious codes, such as tone, nuance, and implied meaning.” – from an article “Crickets, Books, and Bach: Develop a Summer Listening Program” by David Gordon (2007), based on research by David Rose and Bridget Dalton Plato Revisited: Learning through Listening in the Digital World, published by RFB&D

8. Describe the method of evaluation will you use to determine the success of the project. Teachers will evaluate student responses to books listened to at the listening center. Does the student grasp key concepts? Is the student able to recall learned information? Is there an improvement in the student's drawing and written response? Is the student continuing to progress in reading level? Does the student recognize taught sight words? Is the student gaining in concepts of print? Does the student grasp story elements?

9. Budget Amount requested \$454.45

Please detail your budget request. The budget may not exceed the maximum amount available for each grant award.

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List all known or estimated expenditures for materials/equipment/services.

Nature of expenditure	Amount requested
Read-Along Kits for Emergent Readers:	
Community Helpers Kit	\$49.95
Seasons and Weather Kit	\$49.95
Food and Nutrition Kit	\$49.95
Plants Kit	\$49.95
Smithsonian's Backyard Read-Along Set	\$49.75
Science Read-Along Set	\$44.95
Favorite Stories On Tape Set	\$49.99
Favorite Authors Read-Along Set	\$79.99
 Total	 \$424.48
Shipping & handling	\$ 29.97
Total	\$454.45

10. Has this proposal previously received funding? Yes ___ No X

If yes, please explain how this proposal expands the project previously submitted.