

Project Narrative  
Green Gables Children's Learning Center  
4504 S. Freya

This 7,000+ square foot project will serve as a hub for both childcare and early learning, for WCCC, ECEAP, and private pay families in eastern Washington. The new building will be licensed for 132 children, serving approximately 70 private pay children, 20 WCCC subsidy families, and 42 Early ECEAP and/or preschool-aged ECEAP families.

The north side location was built just ten years ago and we are modeling this new building after that location. The intent is to blend the new building into the existing residential neighborhood. The site will include playgrounds for outside activities for the children. Landscaping will be provided throughout the entire site meeting or exceeding the City of Spokane's requirements. The existing residence on the property will remain and be repurposed as faculty offices, the kitchen for the center, and storage for supplies.

In addition to providing childcare, early learning, and ECEAP classrooms, this facility will also have designated therapy rooms designed specifically for pediatric therapies. On-site resources and access to mental health counselors, physical, occupational and speech therapists, etc. by licensed professionals will be provided. These wrap-around services will be accessible to all families enrolled the facilities program through the shared services model. The center also plans to implement a monthly community cafe to share services for parents and families; this could take the form of parenting classes, healthy meal planning, cooking classes, and/or a community garden. A parent advisory board will set some of the direction and goals. There is an enormous need in our community for a STEAM-oriented preschool and summer camp program. This location will provide the pilot site to introduce this science-based immersion curriculum program-wide. The new facility will serve our community in so many valuable ways while meeting the Early Achiever standards for quality early childhood education. This includes individualized instruction for every child, curriculum and learning opportunities that align with Washington State Early Learning and Development guidelines, engaging interactions and environments, family engagement and partnership, developmental screening and ongoing assessment in collaboration with families. Green Gable's two ECEAP sites are rated a level four, they are committed to obtaining an Early Achiever's level five at this new facility!

This facility will be located within a mile of several apartment buildings that participate in the low-income housing tax credit. We will definitely be an asset to the community by providing 42 Early ECEAP and ECEAP slots along with 20 WCCC slots. Green Gables intends to provide a multitude of opportunities for parent education in the facility like Circle of Security, Parenting with Love & Logic, CSEFEL, and trauma - informed training. This last training is provided in partnership with the Spokane Regional Health District and was a huge success the last time it was offered. Green Gables also intends to provide additional programs expanding the 6th annual health and immunization clinic to include resources of medical and dental professionals from our area. They will be expanding their Usborne and Scholastic book fairs supporting literacy for the entire community, not just centers families. The facility will also be partnering with some new programming resources for parents including Sesame Street in Communities. Green Gables plans to offer healthy cooking classes that would include scratch cooking, using whole foods, thus eliminating processed foods with high sodium, sugar and fat. Additionally, they plan to offer exercise classes for parents and children such as Yoga Calm. Green Gables hopes to access additional mental health professionals that can provide programming to reduce anxiety and stress, or active learning workshops for parents, etc. that will support the Early Achiever strengthening families model by being both affordable and accessible to every family in their program. Green Gables always provides both scholarships and free childcare in the evenings. The planned Community Cafe will also guide the scope of programming that will benefit low-income households, so that they remain inclusive and do not make assumptions about the community's needs. An anonymous survey and parent advisory board will also help set the direction of centers goals to meet any needs, the facility may not yet be aware of, within the community. This new program will also maintain a library of updated resources that will be made accessible to every family. Green Gables also values the importance of science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) and are trying to create a "my family & me" program that will be open to everyone in the community at specific times throughout the year.

Green Gables centers have always been culturally responsive and exceptionally inclusive from providing books, resources and developmental screeners in a child's home language to inviting parents to

Project Narrative  
Green Gables Children's Learning Center  
4504 S. Freya

participate in their program, sharing their culture, career, practices, etc. Green Gables emergent curriculum allows them a more developmentally appropriate anti-bias approach. An example of this is their suggested theme, 'More About Me-Celebrating Differences!' The centers anti-bias practices are introduced to all employees during staff orientation and are evident in all professional development. Green Gables faithfully incorporate strategies for supporting the diverse learning styles and needs of both parents and children. The faculty recognizes that each family comes to our program with their own unique dynamic and family structure. They have taken extra steps to make sure each family knows they are an inclusive program by adjusting the verbiage on all paperwork to allow families to select their own identification and relationship to the child. This seems especially inclusive for a family that may have two moms, two dads, or where a grandparent may be raising the child. The faculty does a fantastic job facilitating friendships and acceptance among the children throughout the center community. As a regular part of planned curriculum and daily interactions, they encourage classmates to ask each other questions and learn about each other's families and heritage. The faculty practices inclusion and want each child to feel safe within the center's community. They have partnered with KSPS to provide resources for families and teachers to aid in supporting challenging topics like divorce, incarcerated parents, or grief. With that in mind, the teachers actively avoid labeling children. Green Gables teaches all their teachers and children that each person has different abilities, and there is a place for everyone in their classroom and community. During regular parent-teacher conferences, they discuss a child's unique strengths and goals with their parents. It is through these conversations that they avoid "ableism," and encourage each child to recognize themselves as a valued member of the Green Gable community, and their larger local community, as well. In Green Gables commitment to fully implement ITERS & ECERS, they work diligently to promote acceptance and awareness of differing cultures, carefully avoiding cultural appropriation and a touristic approach when adding materials to dramatic play or creating multicultural pieces for the classroom. As a level 4 Early Achiever & ECEAP provider at their other two other locations, they have extensive experience in supporting a multitude of diverse families.

As an established and respected early learning program, Green Gables has formed a multitude of strong partnerships within several local and state organizations. As an ECEAP provider in their fifth year at their other two locations, they have been able to support children and families with their ECEAP program. They have 45 children in their ECEAP program including 10 Working Day, 20 Part Day, and 15 Full Day slots through this partnership with ESD101. Green Gables affiliation has strengthened the program by providing additional resources and funding to provide high-quality care for every child in their program. They have recently partnered with ESD101 through the pilot program for Shared Services. It has allowed faculty from their other locations to participate in high-quality continuing education at no cost. The support and expertise provided by ESD101 is unparalleled. Green Gables is also a member of the Washington Childcare Centers Association, WCCA, which consistently advocates for quality early education and partnership throughout the state. Rebecca Lee is regularly involved in the statewide support for early learning through WCCA, which provides a forum for the sharing of ideas between centers and promotes commitment to the profession. Rebecca Lee also sits on the Early Achiever Review Subcommittee (EARS) as the co-chair. This provides an opportunity for a partnership that allows Early Achievers to continue to serve as a mentoring and coaching resource, so that centers can meet high-quality early learning standards statewide. In addition, they are partners with the Licensed Center Advisory Subcommittee (LCAS). This active participation allows for the sharing of ideas, suggestions and feedback that supports providers in strengthening their business so that in turn, they can provide a quality program that helps each child reach kindergarten readiness and ultimately, their full potential. Most recently, they collaborated with WSU College of Pharmacy and Spokane Regional Health District, SRHD for our 5th annual immunization clinic. This clinic is provided at no cost to children, families, relatives, and staff, allowing vulnerable populations to receive an annual flu vaccination. SRHD also coordinated with Green Gables to provide valuable information for parents of children entering kindergarten at their annual 'Kindergarten Information Night'. They also value their partnership with St. George's School where their 2nd grade classroom comes to Green Gable and creates a community of reading buddies with ECEAP classrooms. This culturally responsive program promotes ongoing friendships and provides early literacy support for ECEAP children. Additionally, the Spokane County Library provides a librarian to facilitate storytime, songs, and fingerplays right in their classrooms. Our Early Achiever coach provides endless mentoring and support to help them maintain the highest quality standards in their program.