

Date: June 13, 2022

To: Ankit Shah (Orange Rotary)

Request: Snug Play equipment request for TLC Public Charter School

TLC Contact:

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School Background: TLC - A Model for Full Inclusion

Opened in 2018 in the City of Orange, TLC is an acclaimed and high impact TK-6th elementary charter school offering a unique, full-inclusion model educational program. TLC is Orange County's first "diverse-by-design" school, providing every child an arts-enriched school-wide curriculum, individualized academic support as needed, a socioemotional curriculum to promote friendship, care, and empathy, and all additional supports and services students may need to learn, grow, and thrive at school. In 2021-2022, TLC's 175 TK-6th grade students include: 17.9% students with disabilities (note: our proportion of students with the most significant needs is more than double that of surrounding schools), 73% Latinx, 36% English Language Learners, and 63% of students living in low-income households. Our current enrollment is 175 students (TK-6<sup>th</sup> Grade). TLC plans to continue expanding for the next 5-10 years to reach our full capacity of 450 students grades TL-6<sup>th</sup>. In our first year of operation, TLC was honored to be named one of seven National Innovation Schools by the Walton Family Foundation due to our commitment to family supports and care in addition to academic achievement and growth for all students. TLC utilizes a Universal Design for Learning (UDL) curriculum designed to minimize barriers and maximize learning for all students, and features a supportive and nurturing environment where students can develop essential life skills of empathy, respect, and care. To "see" the program in action, follow the link for a video about our school: "TLC: Kindness, Respect, & Acceptance" <https://vimeo.com/357005157/8a3b99d2d0>.

Critical need: Inclusive Play Equipment

Play is an essential and central component of our inclusive educational program at TLC, as play encourages children's social development and interaction, problem-solving, creativity, and habits for healthy living. Play promotes friendship and meaningful interactions between students, and playing with peers at school is well-known to support a sense of happiness and belonging- which research has demonstrated is fundamental for learning readiness, risk, and achievement. For students with disabilities, especially

those with sensory needs and/or limited communication, play represents a unique opportunity to engage with peers in shared activities that are fun, meaningful, and supportive. Inclusive playgrounds allow students of all abilities to join in fun together... which encourages connections and new friendships for all. Inclusive playgrounds are designed to be inviting and appealing to ALL students, and therefore remove the barriers to play that far too often exclude students with disabilities and those with additional sensory needs. (see this site for more inclusive play for special education: <https://www.edutopia.org/video/why-inclusion-matters-playground>)

Critically, following these past years of school disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the related impacts on our local community, the need for our students to (re)learn to engage, play, build relationships, and have positive social experiences at school has amplified even more. TLC students are in desperate need of positive social experiences that allow for taking turns, problem-solving, creative thinking, physical activity, laughter, and play. As we seek to rebuild a healthy and thriving community at school, shared experiences through guided play help to build the social connections that form the foundation of friendship, social growth, and positive development at school.

### Rotary Club

In addition to daily recreational use, Snug Play inclusive equipment will be used for Family Night events (bi-monthly) throughout the school year in partnership with Orange Rotary. At Family Night events, TLC parents and students will be invited to join us on campus for Parent Workshops (e.g. developing healthy habits at home for school success, promoting a love of reading and learning, exercise and mental health). Orange Rotary will work together with TLC staff to lead recreational activities for families using the Snug Play equipment, including obstacle courses, guided games, soccer, and more (see attached pictures). Participating Rotarians will be able to connect directly with the students and families we serve, and will make important contributions to our community by bringing joy, engagement, and positive experiences to children and families at our school. We welcome Orange Rotary to participate in these Family Events as planned by TLC, and we also invite Orange Rotary to participate in bringing new ideas and activities to our community at any time.

- 2022-23 Family Nights with Orange Rotary:
  - September 2022 – Fall Family Fun: Back-to-School Night
  - November 2022 – Spirit of the Holidays: Our Diverse and Caring Community
  - February 2023 – Spring Training: Promoting Physical and Mental Health
  - April 2023 – Field Day: Summer Send-Off

### Proposal

Purchase new and supplemental Snug Play equipment to be used for recess and lunch play, PE, and guided activities for children at our school. TLC students are already

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- 2 storage units
- Advanced System
- 4 waves (replacements)]
- 2 mounds
- 1 loop ring

8-10 weeks

- Overall Project Cost - Estimated budget (TBD – estimate will be sent on 6/14)