



2019 Leading for Children Innovative Ideas Award Application

THE LEADING FOR CHILDREN INNOVATIVE IDEAS AWARD is our opportunity to recognize and highlight the great ideas of early childhood program directors and teachers. In addition to providing financial awards for these great ideas, we share them with the national early learning community in order to benefit other programs and their children.

Leading for Children grounds our conversations about quality within a simple framework — the Coherent Path to Quality. Focusing on the Coherent Path encourages a commitment to a shared vision that drives quality and positive outcomes for children.

In 2019 we will be looking for submissions that focus on the three areas identified below.



- **Relationships and Interactions** — In what ways does your innovation support enhanced relationships and interactions among all who support the success of young children (children and families, children and staff, staff and families, staff and agencies)?
- **Emotional and Physical Environment** — In what ways does your innovation ensure that the physical and emotional environment is a safe and comfortable space for all who support the success of children in your program?
- **Learning Experiences** — In what ways does your innovation foster opportunities for adults and children to develop intellectually, socially, and emotionally?

We encourage you to engage in conversation with your staff about ways you have promoted continuous quality improvement in these areas. Identify one strategy you have used that has made a significant difference in the quality of your program and in the experiences of staff, children, and families.

Eligibility:

Please note the following eligibility criteria.

- You must have an easily-replicated innovation that is having a positive impact on child development and learning.
- Your idea must align with the foundational principles and core values of Leading for Children (found on our website at www.leadingforchildren.org/what-we-believe/).

Selection process and timeline:

Submission Period: May 1 – July 15, 2019.

2019 Innovative Ideas Awardees Notified: by August 15, 2019.

To ensure a fair and equitable selection process, the review panel will rely solely on the information provided through the submission process. Only complete submissions will be considered.

Questions? Email us at info@leadingforchildren.org

Following is a fillable PDF form. Please type in your responses, save the document and return by email or mail as instructed at the end of this form. If you are not able to work in a PDF you may choose to return a Word document that contains the following information and adheres to the word count guidelines.

Your Name:				Title:		
Organization:						
Address:						
City:				State:		
Contact Telephone:			Email:			

Focus Area: Select one area addressed by your innovative idea.

Relationships and Interactions

Emotional and Physical Environment

Learning Experiences

Provide a title for your idea (the name you want it to be called).

Imagine you were writing a newspaper article about your idea. Provide a concise and compelling headline for this article that states how your innovation addresses your focus area. (maximum 12 words)

Tell us what inspired your idea and led you to design and implement this strategy.
(maximum 300 words)

Describe your idea, including how it addresses your focus area. (maximum 750 words)

Explain how you moved from idea to a fully implemented innovation. Please list the steps (no more than 10) that you followed as you developed your idea. Include a brief description of each step and the specific factors that contributed to the successful result.

Identify up to three challenges you faced, and explain how you adjusted your plan to address these challenges.

Challenge #1

Adjustment

Challenge #2

Adjustment

Challenge #3

Adjustment

How did you know your innovative idea was effective? Describe two or three positive impacts the innovation had on staff, children, families, and overall on your program's quality. (6 – 8 sentences)

What advice would you offer another leader who is interested in implementing your idea?

(2 – 4 sentences)

Letter of reference:

Each submission must include a reference from a staff member. The staff member should describe his/her perspective of the idea and the impact it had on the program and/or individuals (Approx. 500 words). Please provide this letter as a separate attachment.

Submission:

Please send nominations by email to: info@leadingforchildren.org

or return by mail to:

Leading for Children Innovative Ideas Award
500 Melrose Place
South Orange, NJ 07079