

# BuildToExpress

Use the following information when requesting grants for manipulatives used to develop character and effectively communicate to others for all Grades.

## Need Statement

The issue in my (number)- grade classroom is (**select an area of issue below**).

**Issue 1:** students are struggling to produce writing.

**Issue 2:** students are not engaged in learning.

**Issue 3:** getting all students to participate.

**Issue 4:** students with an extreme diversity of abilities.

**Issue 5:** the need to incorporate more creative or project-based learning opportunities.

**Issue 6:** students need better opportunities to enhance speaking and listening skills.

**Issue 7:** students need to reflect before they speak.

**Issue 8:** students need to learn how to listen actively and ask appropriate questions.



## Project Description

My solution is to utilize LEGO® Education BuildToExpress in the classroom to engage every student in a cross-curricular, hands-on learning environment.

BuildToExpress is based on constructivism. This educational theory states that children learn best when they experience things firsthand and within a meaningful context.

The curriculum, which is aligned to national standards, engages students to become more independent learners. The 21st-century skills they will develop include problem solving, comprehension, communication, creativity, and critical thinking.

It creates a learning environment that addresses the challenges associated with (**area of issue**).

Through this program, (**number**) students will create models that represent their thoughts, ideas, and beliefs.

- Practice metaphorical language, empathy, sympathy, and reasoning.
- Explain what they would do, feel, see, say, and experience in situations.
- Hone speaking and listening skills.
- Practice asking relevant questions in an appropriate way.



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Students demonstrate an increased ability to express what they have read/learned and to communicate more effectively in speaking, listening, questioning, and writing. Students' skills will be assessed throughout the project through ongoing observation, presentations, and written work.

**(Add current figures from scores and the percentage increase you wish to achieve from using this program.)**

Students will accomplish their goals by engaging a curriculum that incorporates language arts, social studies, social skills, science, and more, as well as teacher-created challenges and writing assignments.

**(Add information on the standards and types of lessons you will utilize in this program to achieve the growth indicated above.)**

## Curriculum Information

**(Select relevant description options. Be sure to include information on the area of issue. Add additional statements to show how you will address the area of issue using BuildToExpress.)**

### Option 1: BuildToExpress Core Set

Designed for use with the BuildToExpress classroom-facilitation process, the set contains a unique collection of bricks, props, and minifigures to inspire learners and stimulate their creative-thinking skills and imaginations.

All materials, including a building plate, come in a sturdy storage box with lid.

### Option 2: BuildToExpress Guide and Activity Pack

The guide and activity pack teaches the BuildToExpress classroom-facilitation process and how to integrate it in the classroom.

- Lesson plan examples
- Teacher's guide
- Classroom-management tools
- Getting-started exercises
- 30 age-segmented, cross-curricular build-and-share challenge cards
- Challenge card creator to generate custom BuildToExpress lessons

A self-paced instructional DVD demonstrates how to facilitate and integrate the method in the classroom with explanations of best practices from experienced BuildToExpress teachers.

### Option 3: BuildToExpress Extension Activity Pack

Designed for use with the BuildToExpress Extension Activity Pack, it encourages communication and learning through building.

- 20 age-segmented, cross-curricular lesson activities designed for easy implementation
- Up to 40 hours of hands-on activities
- Meets curriculum expectations in character education, language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies
- Additional activities and challenges to inspire students

Teacher resources include rubrics, customizable activity plans and calendars, and reproducible worksheets, along with suggestions for differentiated learning.



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## Professional Development

This hands-on workshop is six hours of intense communication, reflection, and application that help teachers create a safe environment for all students to share their ideas.

The workshop lets participants experience being both a student and a teacher as they learn how to apply the concepts behind BuildToExpress in their classrooms.

Participating in the workshop leads to a greater understanding of when and how to use BuildToExpress to get 100 percent of students participating and communicating effectively.

## Learning theory

- Discover a process of reflection and dialogue to cultivate a positive learning environment and achieve learning targets across the board.
- Awaken students' interests in given subjects.

## Hands on

- Build metaphors and share insights and experiences.
- Examine how effective facilitation combined with LEGO bricks allows for everyone to be treated as equals and all opinions to be heard.

## Tools for planning

- Explore ways to apply the BuildToExpress process to curricula.
- Practice planning BuildToExpress sessions.
- Write challenges and determine follow-up activities.

## Materials management

- Organize and label the materials and do periodic inventory.
- Keep the sets organized and ready for student use.

