

# Applicant Outreach Summary

**Project Name : Seedlings Spanish Preschool - Westgate**

**Did you conduct community outreach on your application? YES or NO- Yes**

## **Outreach Strategy**

**Provide an overview of your outreach strategy, summary of tactics and techniques you undertook (Include dates, locations, # of participants and any other relevant details)**

I have reached out to the community regarding the project by contacting neighbours and the Community Association as well as the Councillor Ward 6, Mr. Richard Pootmans.

Around May 2022 Seedlings attended one of the events that held the City of Calgary at Westgate Community Center regarding the Local Area Planning Project of the Westgate Community to get a sense of the potential interest of the community in having a Spanish and French bilingual daycare in the Westgate community and the viability of the project. At that meeting Seedlings reached out to members of the Westgate community association board and gave a first basic description of the project. The members of the board expressed there is a need of the service in the community.

On January 2023 Seedlings reached out to about 30 neighbours in the blocks adjacent to the property introducing Seedlings current services in other communities and expressing the intention to run a similar project out of the property in consideration. On May 2023 another 15 families were contacted door by door. On different occasions around 10 more neighbors were approached on the street to talk about the project. In total around 55 families were contacted in the neighborhood, and we collected the address of 45 of those families. The streets of the families contacted are Westview Drive, Westminister Dive, Warwick Drive, 47th street and 8th avenue, 49 street and 8th avenue, 8th avenue and 45 street, 53 street and 7th avenue.

Other members of the community were given information at the 2023 annual board meeting and a monthly board meeting. The initiative was presented to members of the community, to the community board and to Councillor Ward 6, Mr. Richard Pootmans at the 2023 annual Westgate board meeting (March 2023). At that time, the community had the opportunity to ask questions. The initiative was received very positively. Some questions regarding traffic and parking were discussed. From all the neighbours contacted, only three families expressed concerns regarding additional traffic or parking, a few had a neutral opinion and the majority have a positive or very positive opinion and consider it a great service for the community.

I will come back to present the project once again and answer any questions to the community at the next board meeting which will be held on September 7th, 2023. In the next few months, I will be working to build rapport with the neighbors particularly with those in closest proximity to the property.

**Stakeholders :Who did you connect with in your outreach program? List all stakeholder groups you connected with. (Please do not include individual names)**

- The Community Association
- Councillor of Ward 6.

**What did you hear? Provide a summary of main issues and ideas that were raised by participants in your outreach.**

There is a big interest from the community and the Westgate Community Association board in having a daycare offering a French and Spanish bilingual program. The community is interested in a program with flexible service (days / hours / language / calendar) The community considers important this service for current families and new families coming into the community. A couple residents of the community were concerned regarding additional traffic and the possibility of vehicles doing a U turn at the corner of the

property. Some neighbors expressed that are concerned with weekend service. Seedlings has decided not to offer weekend service.

**How did stakeholder input influence decisions? Provide a summary of how the issues and ideas summarized above influenced project decisions. If they did not, provide a response for why.**

Seedlings will offer: French bilingual program and a Spanish bilingual option. Two calendars of service will be offered: 12 and 10 months options as well as summer service / 2, 3 and 5 days per week care. Seedlings is open to hear from the community board meetings what other services the community is interested in. Seedlings will not offer weekend service. Seedlings explained to the community that approved capacity of the program (No. of children) will be approved by the city taking into consideration traffic and mobility. Seedlings will ask to the city for the possibility of a NO U turn sign at Westview Drive / 8th Avenue SW. Parents in the program will be given details of parking and traffic flow.

**How did you close the loop with stakeholders? Provide a summary of how you shared outreach outcomes and final project decisions with the stakeholders that participated in your outreach. (Please include any reports or supplementary materials as attachments)**

Seedlings participated at the Annual Westgate Community Association meeting introducing Seedlings services and the project proposed at Westgate. Seedlings shared at the meeting the results of the door-to-door presentation in the neighbourhood. Seedlings responded to the community questions regarding the project. Seedlings heard from the community regarding the type of service and their concerns.

Seedlings will participate in future community meetings to tailor the service to the community needs.

Actions to take to address concerns from the community: Parking, pick up and drop off

Seedlings has contacted the neighbours with concerns and has explained to them that there are enough parking and drop off stalls based on the 1 / 10 children requirement. Permanent signage will be installed for each of the stalls. Seedlings staff will make sure that children will be ready for pick up to make sure that the process is done in a timely manner. We plan to have 5 teachers at the same time and there will be 2 staff only parking spots available and an area for a secured bike rack. Some of the staff will use the Calgary transit services to come to work. Transit service is in proximity to the parcel. Route 93 (serving 45 street and Westbrook LRT stations) is located within 3 minutes' walk and the 45 Street LRT Station is within 13 minutes' walk. Additional traffic Seedlings has explained to the community that it is expected that most of the families that will have their child at the daycare will be families from the community or families with children enrolled at the schools nearby, so no significant additional traffic is foreseen.

Seedlings families – information and education Seedlings will provide information to each of the families enrolling their child in the program regarding where to park, where to pick up and drop off children, and speed limits. Seedlings will be reminding families of information with certain frequency to make sure that the procedure is being followed.

Building a relationship with neighbors The Seedlings director would like to build a relationship and maintain direct communication with neighbours to resolve any difficulties that may arise because of the facility presence in the neighbourhood without any undo delay. In the next few months, I will be working to build rapport with the neighbors particularly with those in closest proximity to the property.