



# OLÉ! TEXAS

## Outdoor Learning Environments for Childcare Centers

### Join the OLE! Texas initiative's Designer Network.

In order to implement the OLE! Texas initiative throughout Texas, designers are needed who aspire to the standards and philosophy of the Outdoor Learning Environment. Education and training programs are being sponsored by the Texas Department of State Health Services in order to develop a network of designers across Texas who are dedicated to improving early childhood education centers' outdoor play and learning spaces. The two-part process is being managed by Texas Tech University and is open to individuals with site design experiences, including landscape architects, architects, design/build firms, landscape designers, master gardeners and others. The process includes:

- Completion of the Natural Learning Initiative's On-line "Designing Early Childhood Outdoor Environments" course. approved for 24 hours of LA CES credit)
- Participation in a facilitated design workshop practicum sponsored by one of the OLE! Texas local coalitions and facilitated by Texas Tech University faculty (can be combined with the NLI course capstone project)

When completed, designers will receive recognition as an OLE! Texas Designer and become part of a group of state-wide network. Limited funding is available for reimbursement of the NLI on-line course fees (\$450) upon successful completion of the course and the facilitate design workshop. stages)



**Interested designers should coordinate with the OLE! Texas Local Coalition Leader**



Individuals who wish to participate, and receive reimbursement, will need to complete an application (see reverse side) and register for the NLI online course, using an OLE! Texas identifying code. PLEASE NOTE: Individuals who wish to participate but are not requesting reimbursement should follow the same process in order to receive proper recognition and inclusion in the network.

#### **For more information contact:**

Dr. Charles Klein

Charles.klein@ttu.edu / 806-834-8409

Application Deadline is May. 31, 2018

Funding is limited, so apply early

**OLE! Texas** (Outdoor Learning Environments) is a statewide initiative that improves outdoor spaces at childcare centers. The initiative adds design elements (looping pathways, vegetable gardens, more play and learning settings, etc.) to enable 0-5 year olds to be active, learn in nature, and develop motor skills. It has received national attention as an innovative and evidence-based approach to increasing childhood physical activity and food awareness. OLE! Texas demonstration sites can be found in Austin, Harris County, Lubbock, and San Antonio.

#### **Why is OLE! Texas important?**

- There are 18,883 child day care operations in Texas and over 1.1 million little Texans attend these operations who can benefit from this project.
- More than 1 in 5 U.S. children ages 2 – 5 years are already overweight or obese.
- OLE! Texas is based on the Preventing Obesity by Design (POD) model, which is associated with higher levels of physical activity and a 22 percent reduction in sedentary behavior among preschoolers.



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## Outdoor Learning Environments for Child Care Centers

### Designer Application (for reimbursement consideration)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information: Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Company Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Design Background: ☐ Landscape Architect (Reg # \_\_\_\_\_)  
☐ Architect (Reg# \_\_\_\_\_)  
☐ Designer  
☐ Design/Build Contractor  
☐ Contractor  
☐ Horticulturalist with design emphasis  
☐ Design Student  
☐ Other (Explain \_\_\_\_\_)

Are you capable of producing scaled drawings, plans and/or layouts  
either by hand or computer generated? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you wish to receive reimbursement for the cost of the NLI On-line course? ☐ Yes ☐ No

- **NOTE:** Those individuals wishing to receive reimbursement will need to complete a TTU Vendor Setup Form (I9) which will be provided upon request. Upon successful completion of the course, an invoice along with documentation of successful course completion will need to be submitted.
- **Reimbursement funds are limited**, so please submit your application as soon as possible.

- See separate flyer and with registration instructions for the NLI online “Designing for Early Childhood Outdoor Environments” course
- Coordinate the in-person design workshop practicum with your local coalition leader
- Design workshop facilitated by Texas Tech University faculty:



**Dr. Charles Klein**  
Department of  
Landscape Architecture



**Dr. Kristi Gaines**  
Department of Design

**Dr. Malinda Colwell**  
Department of Human  
Development and  
Family Studies

