

## Victorian Kindergartens and Early Learning Centres

Supplementary Funding Pathway

### Bank First Teaching Initiatives Program (TIP)

**Grant Information:** <https://www.bankfirst.com.au/teaching-initiatives-program>

The **Teaching Initiatives Program (TIP)** is the **Supplementary** external pathway. This recurring program provided by Bank First is specifically intended to fund "the little bit extra" that brings the curriculum to life. Grants are available up to **\$4,000** for Bank First members and **\$2,000** for non-members. This pathway is ideal for a kindergarten looking to fund a **single sensory instrument** through a creative, education-led application.

### Project Positioning

For this supplementary pathway, the project should be positioned as a **Creative Pedagogy Initiative**. Frame the instrument as a tool for "Acoustic Science and Creative Arts," moving beyond standard play to show how educators will use the equipment to explore sound, vibration, and rhythm. Bank First looks for "outside-the-box" thinking, so emphasize the precision tuning and the unique sensory experience of the stainless steel as a departure from traditional plastic outdoor toys.

### Avoid positioning the project as:

A standard capital works request or a basic maintenance need. While durability is a feature, this grant committee is looking for **educational inspiration**. Avoid overly technical jargon; instead, focus on the **sense of wonder** the children will experience when they discover they can "play the environment" through high-quality acoustic engineering.

## Project Title

[Insert Kindergarten Name] Harmonic Discovery: Exploring the Science of Sound in Nature

## Service Overview

[Insert Kindergarten Name] is committed to providing an enriched, play-based curriculum that sparks curiosity and creative thinking. We believe that high-quality, sustainable resources are essential for fostering a child's natural desire to explore. Our teaching team is dedicated to providing innovative learning opportunities that bridge the gap between STEM and the creative arts.

## Project Description

This project involves the introduction of a professional-grade, precision-tuned acoustic instrument (the Explorer model) into our outdoor learning environment. This is a permanent, weather-proof teaching tool that allows children to explore the physics of sound—such as pitch, tempo, and resonance—through self-directed play. Unlike traditional playground equipment, this asset provides a "legacy" resource that encourages collaborative music-making and mindful sensory exploration in a natural garden setting.

## Community Need

Our educators have identified a need for more "high-fidelity" sensory resources in our outdoor space. Many existing playground tools do not offer the depth of auditory or tactile feedback required to truly engage a child's curiosity about the physical world. This project fills that gap by providing a sophisticated, yet accessible, musical tool that caters to all ages and stages of development within our kindergarten community.

## Community Benefit

By investing in architectural-grade acoustic equipment, we are elevating the educational environment for the families of [Insert Suburb]. This project demonstrates a commitment to sustainable, high-quality learning tools that will not need to be replaced. Because the instrument is manufactured from 316L stainless steel, it serves as a long-term community asset that will benefit hundreds of Victorian children over its 25-year lifespan.

## Outcomes

The project aims to achieve a documented increase in **student-led scientific inquiry** and creative expression during outdoor learning sessions. We expect to see children experimenting with rhythmic patterns and auditory discrimination, leading to improved social-emotional regulation and cognitive development. We also expect to share these "Learning Stories" with our wider parent community to demonstrate the value of sensory-rich play.

## Project Delivery

The project will be delivered by the Educational Leader and the teaching team. We will procure a single Explorer instrument and integrate it into our "Science of the Senses" curriculum. The "Zero-Surfacing" design allows for immediate integration into an existing garden bed or quiet corner of the yard. We will document the children's interactions with the instrument and present the findings at our annual parent information evening.

## Budget

Item	Quantity	Total (Ex. GST)
Explorer Sensory Instrument	1	\$4,500
Freight and Logistics	1	\$350
<b>Site Works Provision (Indicative Installation)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Total Project Cost</b>		<b>\$5,850</b>
<b>Funding Requested (Bank First TIP)</b>		<b>\$4,000</b>
<b>Kindergarten Contribution</b>		<b>\$1,850</b>

## Pricing Note

*Costs provided are indicative to support funding applications. Final pricing, including freight and installation, may vary depending on location and site requirements. Schools are encouraged to obtain a formal quote to confirm project costs.*

## Budget Justification

This budget reflects a high-quality initiative that introduces a unique educational asset to the centre. We have included a **provisional sum for indicative installation** to ensure the instrument is safely and professionally post-mounted. The \$4,000 grant from Bank First covers the majority of the equipment cost, while the kindergarten contribution covers the remaining asset price, freight, and the "Zero-Surfacing" installation requirements.

## Sustainability

The instrument is a "Zero-Maintenance" asset with a 25-year warranty. It does not require the recurring costs of surfacing repairs, painting, or parts replacement common with traditional playground equipment. This makes it an exceptionally sustainable and high-value choice for the Teaching Initiatives Program, providing a legacy of learning for decades.

## Evaluation

Success will be evaluated through staff observations and the collection of "Learning Stories" documenting children's creative and scientific engagement with the instrument. We will also monitor the instrument's use as a self-regulation tool during transitions and provide a final report to Bank First detailing the project's success.

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## Application Considerations

The Bank First TIP committee prioritizes initiatives that demonstrate a clear "extra" benefit to the students. Ensure the application is submitted by a staff member who is a Bank First member to access the higher **\$4,000** funding tier. Including a brief statement on why this high-quality acoustic tool was chosen over "standard" playground equipment will help highlight the innovative nature of the project.