

Mississippi State University Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

Mississippi State University anticipates purchasing the item(s) listed below as a sole source purchase. Anyone objecting to this purchase shall follow the procedures outlined below.

1. Commodity or commodities to be purchased (make, model, description):

Innovative, elevated play-based learning through engaging indoor/outdoor STEAM early learning materials, including a mobile magnetic wall

with magnetic building materials, a weaving wall, a ball holder, interactive water pump.

Units	Item	Description
4	Kodo Outdoors Comprehensive Set, Kodo Outdoors Comprehensive Set – Kodo Kids	A complete outdoor learning kit featuring Kodo’s exclusive Funnel Stand, Balance, Ramps, and Storage Center, designed to promote scientific thinking, problem-solving, creativity, collaboration, and active learning through hands-on exploration.
4	Kodo Outdoors Basic Set, Kodo Outdoors Basic Set – Kodo Kids	The Kodo Outdoors Basic Kit supports outdoor sensory, math, and science exploration through hands-on experiences that encourage physical activity, problem-solving, and creative play.
4	Weaving Wall, Weaving Wall for Artistic Play - Kodo Kids	A collaborative weaving wall that promotes creativity, patterning, coordination, communication, and teamwork through large-scale, hands-on art experiences.
4	Ball Holder, Ball Holder – Kodo Kids	The Ball Holder enhances construction and magnet wall areas by providing an engaging way to display and organize materials, encouraging exploration, creativity, and interactive play.
4	Magnet Wall Walls Pack, Magnet Wall Walls Pack – Kodo Kids	This set of four additional Magnet Wall panels expands play possibilities by allowing children to create deflectors, barriers, platforms, and other structures that support creativity, problem-solving, and engineering exploration.
4	Magnet Wall Aqua Circuits Pack, Magnet Wall Aqua Circuits Pack – Kodo Kids	This water pathway set encourages hands-on STEM learning by allowing children to design and operate their own water systems, promoting problem-solving, experimentation, and engineering skills through interactive outdoor play.

4	Magnet Wall Water Pack, Magnet Wall Water Pack – Kodo Kids	Designed for the Outdoor Magnet Wall, this pack includes tubing, funnels, cups, and rings for extensive exploration of play with water, sand, slurry, and more!
4	Magnet Wall Chutes and Tubes Pack, Magnet Wall Chutes and Tubes Pack – Kodo Kids	The Magnet Wall Chutes & Tubes Pack includes a redirector, funnel with ring, two tubes, and an elbow piece to explore how a path can be redirected on your Magnet Wall.
4	Pump Works, Kodo Kids Water Pump Works Water Experiments for Kids	This interactive water pump promotes sensory exploration, cause-and-effect learning, and scientific discovery as children actively pump water and observe the results of their actions.
4	Outdoor Mobile Magnet Wall, Outdoor Mobile Magnet Wall – Kodo Kids	The Outdoor Mobile Magnet Wall encourages hands-on exploration of STEM concepts such as gravity, momentum, and slope through interactive experimentation. Its durable, mobile design supports collaborative learning and active outdoor play for children of all ages.

2. Explanation of the need to be fulfilled by this item(s), how is it unique from all other options, and why it is the only one that can meet the specific needs of the department:

The requested Kodo Kids materials are needed to support the MSU Extension MS LIFT Resource & Referral site’s outdoor learning environment and to extend high-quality early childhood instruction. These materials will be used to model and demonstrate developmentally appropriate outdoor play experiences for family child care providers, center-based staff, and caregivers participating in training, coaching, and lending library services. The goal is to strengthen provider capacity to implement intentional, play-based learning in outdoor environments that support school readiness.

Kodo Kids materials are uniquely designed for open-ended, inquiry-based exploration that naturally extends indoor learning concepts into outdoor environments. They support children’s development across multiple domains, including problem-solving, STEAM thinking, social-emotional skills, language development, and physical coordination. Their durability, versatility, and intentional design make them particularly well-suited for outdoor use in demonstration settings where materials must withstand frequent handling and varied environmental conditions.

These products are uniquely designed and manufactured by Kodo Kids and are not comparable to standard outdoor classroom materials available from other vendors. Kodo Kids uses commercial-grade solid wood, weather-resistant construction, and corrosion-resistant hardware designed to withstand long-term outdoor use, unlike many competitors that rely on plastic, composite materials, or thinner wood products with shorter lifespans.

A key feature of Kodo Kids products is their mobility. Many components include locking casters, allowing educators to easily move and reconfigure learning environments while maintaining safety and stability. The products are specifically designed for outdoor learning and promote collaborative play, child-led exploration, problem-solving, and STEM learning through hands-on experiences.

The combination of durable outdoor construction, mobile design, and an integrated educational approach distinguishes Kodo Kids from comparable products and makes them the only source capable of providing the specific learning experiences required for this project.

These products are distinct from other commercially available outdoor or classroom materials due to their proprietary design and integrated learning system, which promotes cohesive, child-led exploration across learning domains. Comparable products do not provide the same combination of durability, educational intentionality, and flexibility required to effectively model high-quality outdoor learning practices across a diverse provider network.

3. Name of company/individual selling the item and why that source is the only possible source that can provide the required item(s):

The requested items will be purchased from **Kodo Kids**, the original manufacturer and exclusive distributor of these proprietary materials. These products are only available directly through Kodo Kids, with no authorized resellers or equivalent alternatives on the market. Because the materials are uniquely designed and produced under their proprietary system for early childhood learning, no equivalent product will meet programmatic needs.

4. Estimated cost of item(s) and an explanation why the amount to be expended is considered reasonable:

The estimated amount is \$34,263.04. This amount is considered reasonable based on a review of comparable early childhood outdoor learning materials from other vendors, which generally fall within a similar or higher price range when considering durability, educational design, and intended use in training and lending library environments.

Kodo Kids materials are high-quality, proprietary learning tools designed for repeated use in professional development, demonstration, and outdoor learning extension activities. The cost reflects their durability, multi-use functionality, and alignment with early childhood best practices. In addition, the department reviewed available bundle options and selected the most cost-effective combination of items necessary to meet program goals while remaining within budget guidelines.

5. Explanation of the efforts taken by the department to determine this is the only source and the efforts used to obtain the best possible price:

The department conducted market research by reviewing comparable early childhood outdoor learning materials from other vendors and confirming availability through catalogs, vendor websites, and prior purchasing records. This review determined that Kodo Kids is the only

source offering the specific proprietary materials required for the program's outdoor demonstration and lending library needs.

Any person or entity that objects and proposes that the commodity listed is not sole source and can be provided by another person or entity shall submit a written notice to:

Jennifer Mayfield, CPPO

Director of Procurement Services, Chief Procurement Officer

jmayfield@procurement.msstate.edu

Subject Line must read "Sole Source Objection"

The notice shall contain a detailed explanation of why the commodity is not a sole source procurement. Appropriate documentation shall also be submitted if applicable.

If after a review of the submitted notice and documents, MSU determines that the commodity in the proposed sole source request can be provided by another person or entity, then MSU will withdraw the sole source request publication from the procurement portal website and submit the procurement of the commodity to an advertised competitive bid or selection process.

If MSU determines after review that there is only one (1) source for the required commodity, then MSU will appeal to the Public Procurement Review Board. MSU will have the burden of proving that the commodity is only provided by one (1) source.