

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER SUCCESS STORY

PRINCETON AVE. MONTESSORI PRESCHOOL & INFANT CARE

14701 Princeton Ave., Moorpark, CA 93021
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BEFORE:

When George Wedanarachchi purchased Princeton Ave. Montessori Preschool & Infant Care in Moorpark in 2011, he envisioned it having the same world-class image as Princeton University.

To make it happen, he needed to rebuild the school's enrollment and enrich its offerings. Wedanarachchi aimed to improve the facility and hire high-quality early childhood educators, but implementing his vision presented economic challenges.

BEST ADVICE:

Wedanarachchi connected with the EDC-VC's loan officer Marvin Boateng, who helped him obtain approximately \$190,000 from the county loan funds and the Community Investment Loan program. First 5 Ventura County funds the program in partnership with EDC-VC to help address the community's need for infant and child care.

The loan enabled Wedanarachchi to upgrade the facility, making it a safer environment for children and installing a full kitchen. Wedanarachchi also added infant care to further serve the community.

Serving infants from 6 weeks to children up to age 6, Princeton Ave. is the only Montessori infant care center in Moorpark, and one of two infant/toddler centers.

The school now offers a healthy hot-meal program (breakfast, lunch, and snacks) at no extra charge to families. The loan also funded new classroom materials, new playground equipment and other enhancements.

"EDC-VC was able to see our vision," said Wedanarachchi. "Princeton Ave. Montessori was able to expand, stabilize and plan for future growth with EDC-VC's help."

AFTER:

Since working with the EDC-VC, the school has grown by more than 33%, has 12 employees and is still growing its enrollment and staff. Princeton Ave. Montessori has plans to open more locations in the coming year.



LESSONS LEARNED:

- **Investing in the Future**
"We strive to be a critical member of the greater community and build lasting relationships that will transcend generations. EDC-VC really allowed us to bring the facility up to date and invest in the education of our children, who are the builders and educators of tomorrow."
- **Getting Inspired**
"EDC-VC not only provided our business with a vast array of technical assistance, it inspired me as an entrepreneur to plan for future growth, sustainability and business expansion."
- **Learning from Experts**
"EDC-VC provided us with the necessary tools and resources to better forecast our financial needs, as well as the tools to expand our operations with controlled profitable growth."
- **Balancing Act**
"It's a delicate task providing quality care in a fun, safe and family-friendly environment that encourages children's developmental and social growth, while also focusing on the business's expansion and growth. Because of EDC-VC's assistance, we can be more efficient in our work and efforts to exceed existing standards of quality."



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