

Service-Learning Project Plan

Name: **Tiffanie Stringer**

Name of Co-Planner(s) if a Team Project: **Memorial Education Center**

Location of Service-Learning Project: **Memorial Education Center**

Grade Level of Students:
Preschool - Kindergarten

Title of the Service-Learning Project:
Seal the Deal: Spread Kindness

Identify and provide a brief description of the Service-Learning Project you have selected and describe the reason this project was selected.

Preschool students will create handmade thank-you cards for linemen, road workers, EMS, firefighters, police officers, and hospital staff. Each card will include a small tube of lip balm as a comfort gift. To teach children gratitude, empathy, and appreciation for community helpers while encouraging acts of kindness and service.

Explain how this Service-Learning Project is related to the curriculum.

PBIS curriculum and strategies exhibited throughout the school day for being safe, kind, and helpful through this project.

Explain how this Service-Learning Project will enhance student development, growth, and/or learning and how it is related to the Common Good.

It helps students grow socially, emotionally, and academically. In making thank you cards, the children practice on fine motor skills, communication, and creativity. They all work together to learn how to share, cooperate, and respect others. When they learned about the community workers for this it helped them gain an appreciation for them keeping the community safe and healthy. It helps them gain emotional growth by teaching kindness, empathy, and gratitude. By letting them give a small gift it will help them learn that a small action can make such a positive difference to someone. This project helped them relate to the common good by letting the students learn to think about others and work together to support their community.

Describe how this Service-Learning Project involves collaboration and activates higher level thinking.

How to implement the way to be into the community by involving school staff and students to spread kindness.

Describe how this Service-Learning Project will foster the 21st Century skills.

By encouraging communication, collaboration, creativity, empathy, and responsibility.

Goals of Service-Learning Project

Identify the goal(s) in terms of its impact on student learning and/or the environment of the school and/or the contribution to the community.

Goals established for this project include:

Developing empathy and kindness

Build awareness of community helpers

Encourage teamwork

Practice fine motor and creative skills

Understand how communities collaborate to show kindness

Assessment

How will you determine the impact of your efforts on student learning and/or the environment of the school and/or the contribution to the community?

Survey and charted. Before the project I asked the students “does kindness make you happy or sad”? Then I charted what they answered. Then we read the book “Be Kind”. After the book we talked about what it meant to be kind and then I asked them ways that they could be kind and charted those. Then once we drew the cards and gave them out, I asked the students once again the question “does kindness make you happy or sad” and charted the answers.

Documentation

What supporting documentation will you use to show that goals have been achieved?

Charts and questions.

Sequence of Actions to Achieve Identified Goals	Tentative Timeline for Actions	Resources Needed and Persons Involved
Establish fund raiser for lip balm.	2/2/26 – 2/10/26	Flyers, Staff
Engage students with projects by reading books, discussing the project and charting.	2/2/26 – 2/10/26	Books, Flyers of project Be Kind Book Chart Paper and Markers

Create Cards	2/2/26 – 2/4/26	Construction paper, Markers, Crayons, print outs
Delivery of cards and lip balm	2/5/26 – 2/13/26	Cards and lip balm Staff
Add rows as needed		

Service-Learning Project Report
Seal the Deal: Spread Kindness

During the month of January our community was hit by a winter storm where we were shut down for 2 weeks. During this time community workers continued to work to help our town get back to normal. So, when I saw that my assignment was a community service project, I knew that it would be a great way for the children to have some concrete visuals since they were living through that now.

In this preschool service-learning project, I wanted to focus on teaching the preschoolers gratitude, empathy, and appreciation for our community helpers through this meaningful action. The students created handmade thank you cards for the linemen, road workers, EMS personnel, firefighters, police officers, and hospital staff. Each card included a small tube of lip balm as a simple comfort gift. With this simple but thoughtful gesture it allowed all the children to be able to actively be involved in serving others while also learning the importance of being kind and having community connections. In this project idea I thought it would be great to bring in my principal and the other staff at Memorial and make it a school-wide service project. So, I brought this idea to Amy Smith, and she became one of my co-planners of the project. This is when we created a flyer that involved and gave the staff a chance to pay \$10.00 to wear jeans for 3 weeks at school. In doing this it raised the money we needed to be able to provide the small gift of lip balm and while letting the staff be part of the service project as well

I was able to keep this project developmentally appropriate by going in the classrooms and working with the teachers by introducing the concepts of “community helpers” through class discussions and books. Before I started the project, we asked the students and charted their answers on “does kindness make you happy or sad”? Then after reading the book “Be Kind” we talked about what it meant to be kind and then charted those answers as well. We had discussions about all the snow and ice on the ground and talked about how each worker helped us during this storm. So, through guided conversations, the students could talk about how they feel when someone helps them and how they can show appreciation in return. While we made the cards, the students practiced fine motor skills and used their creative skills by decorating the cards. All the teachers helped by assisting the children on writing and drawing the messages that expressed their gratitude such as “Thank You for keeping us safe”. The addition of adding lip balm helped served as a small comfort gift, which helped symbolize care and thoughtfulness for them. Once the children were done with decorating the cards, we contacted some of the community workers and they were able to stop by so we could hand deliver the cards and lip balm. This was a great opportunity for the children to see exactly how this made people feel firsthand. To see if my service project really helped the children understand how being kind to someone made them feel good, we charted the same question I asked from the start of the project. This was a simple question but a powerful one “does kindness make you feel happy or sad”? The first time I asked this I had 8 children say “yes” and 5 say “no. Then the second time around I had 11 “yes” and 2 “no”. That is enough proof to me that even the smallest act of kindness can go a long way and that children can learn the importance of being kind, it just takes us as educators to lead and show them the way.

In doing this project my goal was to help these children understand how to build empathy, social skills, and strengthen the children’s understanding of service to others and start building future service leaders. While doing project with them I could really see that they were beginning to understand that community helpers work hard, sometime even in challenging conditions. It was also a great opportunity to let the students get the feeling of being on a team and helping each other by preparing the cards and getting the lip balms put in the bags for the different departments. The children were not the only ones that learned the value that a little kindness goes a long way. After we completed the project, it was a nice

feeling when we found an article on the Pulaski County Sheriff's Department Facebook page, giving us a shout out for the thank you letters and the lip balm and how much it touched them.

Overall, this service-learning project experience has strengthened the children's social-emotional development while also contributing to helping the community workers. In participating in a real-world act of kindness, the students were able to learn that even with a small gesture it can make a meaningful difference. I strongly believe that this project is going to help these children, teachers, and staff at Memorial realize the importance of gratitude, empathy, and service leadership.