

Service Learning Teacher Guide

As staff proceeds with service learning projects, please consider and work with the four phases of service learning that were emphasized in the CIS training.

Step One: Preparation

The preparation phase of service learning includes the learning activities that take place prior to the actual service work. Before students are placed at a site, they must understand what is expected of them as well as what they can expect from the service project. Preparation components include identifying and analyzing the agency, selecting and planning a project, training and orientation.

Example:

| Service Project | Learning Possibilities |
|---|---|
| Perform a play. Read or sing songs at a nursing home or hospital, and take time to get to know population. Write letters or draw pictures to send if transportation is an issue | Select play, practice, perform, conversation. Learn about nursing homes or hospitals. Journal and write about one person you met and his/her history. |

Step Two: Action

The actual service which should meet the following criteria;

- Meaningful
- Provide for student ownership
- Have adequate supervision
- Be developmentally appropriate

Step Three: Reflection

During reflection, students critically think about their service experience. When students reflect on their experiences, they think or write about them, share them with others, and learn from each other. The reflection time is a structured opportunity for students to learn from their experiences. They can reflect through discussions, reading, writing, projects, the arts, etc.

Step Four: Celebration

The celebration component of service learning is the phase that recognizes students for their contributions. It also provides closure to an ongoing activity. Society needs to let young people know that their contributions count. There are many ways that this final phase of service learning can be acknowledged; school assemblies, certificates, special media coverage, parties, joint celebrations with recipients, etc.

Please see Elizabeth or Mimi for further information.