

Setting Goals for Service

How to Plan and Develop a Project

This section describes a four-step process for developing and carrying out a service learning project. The four steps of the process, presented in detail in the following pages, are:

Step One:

Decide on a project. Choose what you and your students would like to accomplish.

Step Two:

Plan the project. Follow a set of logical steps.

Step Three:

Do the project. Carry out the various tasks you have planned.

Step Four:

Review the results. Acknowledge and celebrate the participation of everyone involved.

Some Important Points to Consider Before You Begin

If you have never done a service learning project, the idea may seem intimidating. You may also have questions that aren't answered in the basic four-step process. Before you begin, here are some important points to keep in mind:



When?

We recommend initiating the service project after you have completed Unit Three. This allows time for the community-building activities that help to develop the cooperation, student participation, adult-child interaction, and groupwork that go hand in hand with service learning.

How long?

You may choose to do service learning projects in one of two ways:

- As a one or two-week project developed and carried out between Units Three and Four.
- As a long-term project initiated after Unit Three and continued during Unit Four and possibly Unit Five. The project might last from one to three months. Students might work on the project once a week in class or more frequently outside of class, perhaps completing some aspects of it as homework.

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After you have completed one service project, you may wish to implement additional projects. For example, you may decide to launch one that's more far-reaching. A group of teachers or the entire faculty may want to do a project involving all the students at a particular grade level or even the entire school.

Who?

A service project can involve large numbers of people, even extending schoolwide. It can also be limited to a single classroom, involving just the teacher and his or her students.

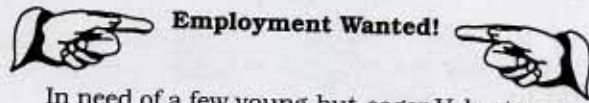
A basic principle of service learning is the importance of student involvement and participation. Keep in mind that the project should be one for which your students will be able to take the main responsibility. It shouldn't be something you or other adults do for them; the focus should be on the students doing things for others.



What?

Any project that involves students in making a positive contribution to the school or community is a form of service learning. There is no limit to the different kinds of projects you may want to consider. You might connect the project with other subject areas, such as social studies and language arts. The following

section offers a detailed description of one project and suggests many other project ideas.



Employment Wanted!

In need of a few young-but-eager Volunteers to help you with Your daily chores or one-shot jobs? Here we are!

Our students are about to embark Upon a service project as part of our Skills for Growing lessons. This service project Should be something that fulfills a real need. If you have such a need, whether it will take an hour to accomplish or two weeks to accomplish, please submit it to us by this Friday for consideration. If your request Is chosen by the children, our services will begin in two weeks.

Name: _____

Your location: _____

What can we do to make your life easier?

—Flier distributed by Barry Spencer, teacher at Vista La Mesa Elementary School, La Mesa, California, to initiate service learning with his students

School or community?

Whether to work within the school or reach out into the community will depend on the time and effort you're able to commit to the project. The main thing to keep in mind is the project should fit the abilities of your students. Don't encourage them to take on something that may be too difficult to complete successfully.