

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

Community Objective

To organize and operate social interaction for children and clientele of local community kitchen.

Background

Sunbeam Child Care Center, a small childcare center in a residential setting in Fairmont, West Virginia is a "School-Day Plus" extended day care program. The concept is part of a movement to provide a nurturing, learning environment for elementary school children during times that school is not in session and their own parents are working.

Most communities have citizens who have fallen on hard times. It is crucial that we help them to maintain their pride and dignity. It is also important that all children feel nurtured and understand that they are part of a larger circle of friends. This plan has a dual benefit: the children preparing and providing games and the children receiving the social interaction.

Challenged Student Conditions

- ~Physically challenged students can be service providers in our project if we (1) include them in the planning, (2) insure that the physical facilities are accessible, (3) recruit them to be part of the project, (4) use a buddy system whereby a team effort accomplishes specific tasks successfully, and (5) integrate all children into some aspect of the project.
- ~Academically challenged students can be service providers in our project if we (1) recruit them to be part of the project, (2) incorporate their ideas into the planning, (3) focus on strengths of students, (4) design, construct and be Official facilitator of games. (5) create jobs in which they can be the expert, and (6) acknowledge them as a vital part of the particular aspect of the project.

Resources

- ~A community kitchen facility eager to have social activities provided for their children/clientele.
- ~Funding to cover transportation of children to and from community kitchen facility.

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FOR K-12 CHALLENGED STUDENTS

- ~Community service worker.
- ~Drama club at local high school.
- ~Drama department of local college/university.
- ~Local librarian.
- ~Guest speaker (local athlete, Smokey the Bear, etc.)
- ~Books.
- ~Supplies to make props for skits.
- ~Games.
- ~Stipend for guest speaker (if needed)
- ~Local bakery/grocer to donate food and paper supplies.
- ~AmeriCorps to send volunteers.

Timeline of Service Activities

- April
- ~Meet with soup kitchen to determine age of clientele (children)
 - ~Determine amount of social time available after meal has been served.
 - ~Plan and organize a schedule of operation (weekly/biweekly)
 - ~Plan and organize transportation needs.
- May-
July
- ~Choose stories to read.
 - ~Tape record reading of stories.
 - ~Dramatize stories (use of different voice tones and/or act out the story)
 - ~Choose topic for skit.
 - ~Design skit.
 - ~Make props for skit.
 - ~Practice skit.
 - ~Videotape and view skit.
 - ~Perform skit and the soup kitchen.
 - ~Select board/table games.
 - ~Prepare to play games at the kitchen (practice, discuss appropriate game behaviors)
 - ~Determine who to invite as a guest speaker, contact that person and schedule a time for this person to read a story aloud and hold discussion and sign autographs.

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- August ~Publicize the event.
 ~Write thank you note to guest speaker, signed by students.

Reflection

- ~Each student will keep a journal of each service experience, writing in anecdotes, or drawing pictures about their own feelings, as well as the feelings of their recipients.
- ~Students will share their thoughts about how working on the program affected their lives and the lives of others.
- ~Students will work in small groups to write a service poem reflecting on their feelings of the service activity.
- ~Was it more like . . . ? Clear some space. Have the group sit on the floor in a circle and think quietly about their service project. Then inform them that you are going to ask them to compare their project to a pair of words and quickly decide which word more closely describes their project.
Example: Was it more like . . . work or fun? - Chinese or Mexican food?
- Nintendo or Sega Genesis?

Celebration

- ~Newspaper articles about culminating activity with guest speaker will be written giving credit to sponsors, staff and students.
- ~Video of rehearsals will be shown to other members of the child care facility.
- ~A special program will be held at the end of the summer with a guest speaker and special foods and desserts.

Academic Objectives

WV IGOs

Process/Workplace

- ~Given multiple tasks, prioritize them according to importance and prepare a time frame and schedule to accomplish the tasks. (PW.3)
- ~Given an event or activity, identify the resources needed and develop a plan of action. (PW.5)
- ~Use active listening and observation skills to understand the positions of others, and use verbal and nonverbal cues from others to communicate effectively in return. (PW.15)

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- ~Understand what it takes to develop an effective team, including team rules, behavior norms, team roles, communications, and decision making practices. (PW.16)
- ~Perform effectively in both leadership and non-leadership roles. (PW.18)
- ~Stay with an assignment or task to completion. (PW.36)

Listening and Speaking

- ~Participate in choral speaking, reciting poems, rhymes, songs, and stories with repeated patterns and creative dramatics. (K.2)
- ~Make an oral presentation using appropriate volume, pitch and rate of speech. (3.14).

Reading Comprehension

- ~Retell major events of a story (1.46)
- ~Dramatize, illustrate, and retell stories that have been read. (1.45)

Civic

- ~Choose and participate in a project of volunteer service to the community. (K4, 1.5, 2.4)

Contact Information

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