

Random Acts of Kindness has brought more meaning into my life, and I am committed to help spread the word.

— Carol, State Parent Facilitator, HI

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These Lesson Plans are a culmination of school-wide activities and classroom activities, ranging from grades K-12.

Lesson Plan

Developing Kids with Character through Service Learning

Submitted by Cynthia; Charlotte, NC

Grade Level: Second

Subject: Social Studies; Student Initiated Service Learning Projects

Character Traits: Leadership, Caring, Compassion, Empathy, Respect, Responsibility.

Time Needed: Varied according to project selected

How/where does this lesson plan fit into the total unit?

Usually toward the middle of the unit, although it is a great culminating/review project. Sometimes it can launch a unit of study by capturing student's interest!

Materials/Resources Needed:

- * Paper and pencils for brainstorming
- * Dry erase board, or chalkboard
- * Poster board for "Action Plan"- with questions printed on it
- * Service learning Journals

Goals:

The learner will exhibit attributes of good citizenship in the classroom, school, neighborhood, and community.

The learner will apply the concepts of authority, responsibility, and justice to democratic societies.

Objectives:

- Demonstrate good citizenship in the classroom and school activities.
- Compare good citizenship in the classroom and school to neighborhood and community citizenship.
- Identify examples of responsible participation in neighborhoods and communities.

Procedures/Activities

Introduction:

During your class meeting share with the students an example of service learning. This could be from a book that features characters working together to solve a problem, from an article in the newspaper or from your own experience.

After discussion, ask your students to pair with a friend and brainstorm ways that they can help others within the class. As a group chart their responses on the board. Ask the students to select a response from the chart and make an action plan on how they will carry out their project. Show the poster board with the following questions: What I would like to do, how will I do it, what barriers might I have, what resources do I need to be successful and what is the outcome? If several children wish to do the same project have them vote on a Captain for the project. Have students write in their Service Learning journals the plan of action. Support and empower students to work their plan.

Action! Give the students a time frame of when their service project should be completed. Obviously the projects will be simple since the kids are initiating and doing the projects on their own. Basic project ideas include them doing something extra at home for no reward, or to help pick up trash on school grounds, etc.

Closing:

Have children write in their journals how they felt about their project. Ask them to assess if the project was successful.

Assessment:

- * Children will write a self-assessment in their journals
- * Number of service hours and minutes will be tracked
- * Students are encouraged to write and illustrate a testimonial
- * A rubric that includes the objectives can be used

** Please note this procedure will be expanded to projects for the school, neighborhood community, community at large and the world. The students might decide to hold grade-level projects or school-wide projects.