Explore your community and decide what problems you want to solve.

Work Together

1. Where do we feel safe in the community? Where do we not feel safe?
2. Where do we spend time together?
3. What places do we see that need changes?
4. What problems do we want to solve?
5. How can we learn more about these problems?
6. What can we do about each problem?

Did you consider?

1. Make a map of the community to help you look for places to do a project.
2. Talk to your neighbors or other people to find out what they think needs to be changed.
3. Learn more about the community by using technology and newspapers. Plan a field trip to important community spaces.
4. Make a list of possible projects to help the group choose one and remember the other ideas later.
Planning and Preparation

Organize the people and materials you need for the project.

Work Together

1. What is each person’s role? How will we include all family members? What can we expect to learn?

2. What will we need (for example, materials, permission, transportation)?

3. How will we document the project before, during, and after it is finished?

4. What community partners can help us with this project?

5. How will the community be impacted?

6. What is our timeline for the project?

DID YOU CONSIDER?

1. There are many roles in a project. Some roles are recorder, artist, and time keeper. You can take one role, or you can change roles with others during the project.

2. Think about how your learning goals from Parent Time, Adult Education, and PACT Time connect to the project.

3. Look for ways to build and share your social or professional networks and job skills. Share your knowledge, and encourage others to do the same!
Complete the project.

Work Together

1. Do we have all the materials we need? If not, what is our plan to find what is missing?
2. Should we review any safety information before we begin?
3. How will we welcome volunteers and community partners?
4. How can we tell others if we need help during the action?
5. What new connections are we making with community members?

Did you consider?

1. Prepare a sign-in sheet for volunteers and community partners.
2. Review participant roles before the action begins. Be sure everyone has a job.
3. Observe what other people do to help with the project. Tell them when they do something well.
4. Meet new people and expand your social connections throughout the project.
5. Take time to think about what you are learning while you do the work of the project.
Reflection

Think about the meaning of the Family Service Learning project. Describe how it connects to you, your community, and what you have learned.

Work Together

1. What did we like best about working on this project?
2. What worked well? What could we do differently next time?
3. What did we learn during this project?
4. How did we work together through each step of the project? How did we work with others?
5. How did we impact the community?
6. How did children improve their own skills (reading, writing, technology) while working on this project?

Did you consider?

1. Remember to reflect on the project during each step. Then stop to reflect on the whole project.
2. Review the pictures and other ways you documented the project to remember what you did in each step.
3. Use different kinds of activities to help family members of all ages share their experiences.
Demonstration of Results and Celebration

Share what you have achieved and learned. Celebrate your efforts and success.

Work Together

1. How have we helped our community?
2. How can we share our project with our community?
3. Who should we invite to see our demonstration?
4. Who worked with us on the project? How can we include them in our demonstration?
5. How will we celebrate this project?

Did you consider?

1. Include community participants in your celebration.
2. Think of many ways to share your results—social media, print media, bulletin boards, and organizational newsletters.
3. Gather your photographs, children’s drawings, and posters, and decorate your meeting space.
4. Assign a family or families to explain how the project was completed and share personal stories from those who participated.
Sustainability

Make Family Service Learning a part of your life. Commit to sustaining this project and determine how the results of this experience will guide your next project.

Work Together

1. How can we continue the project?

2. What will our families do to be involved with the project in the future?

3. What additional financial support will the project need to continue? Are there community resources that we can use to provide support?

4. What additional community partnerships can we form to help continue the project?

5. What are the long-term goals for sustaining the project?

Did you consider?

1. Look at the Community Connection Webs you created and update them with the new people you met during this Family Service Learning project.

2. Create additional adult and child learning goals that will support the project’s future.

3. Choose projects that you will want to support in the future.

4. Make a schedule for who will do which jobs to help sustain the project and when.