
The Baby Story



For illustrating the three types of service-learning:

One day, two friends were enjoying a peaceful walk along a river bank when suddenly they heard a disturbing cry. Looking out into the water they saw a tiny baby coming towards them on a small raft. They knew they had to act so they jumped into the fortunately shallow water and brought the child to safety. They then discussed how they could temporarily feed and care for the child.

(Pause to discuss DIRECT SERVICE-LEARNING with examples)

And now back to our story... It seems the two friends were just about to head back into town with their new friend when from the river they heard even louder cries!! Quickly investigating they saw six babies now in the same situation all helplessly floating towards them on little rafts. So while one stayed to protect the first baby, the other hero jumped into the water and gathered up all the babies and brought them out to safety. Now standing there with seven crying babies the two friends knew they needed help so one decided to stay and protect all the children while the other went into town. While there, the alert would be put out to collect food, diapers, and bedding for the little ones soon to arrive.

(Pause to discuss INDIRECT SERVICE-LEARNING with examples)

Our story is not quite over because before anybody left for town there was even a louder cry from the river. You guessed it!! A dozen babies now were needing to be pulled out to safety. The job done and standing knee deep in crying babies one friend said to the other, "You stay here and protect these children and I will go up the river and find out who is throwing these helpless babies in the water and make sure they stop it!"

(Pause to discuss ADVOCACY SERVICE-LEARNING with examples)

Direct Service

Tutoring, Mentoring, Visiting the Elderly...

Students Learn:

- To be responsible for their own actions
- To be dependable
- To make a difference in another person's life
- To solve problems
- To care for another person
- To focus on the needs of others, and put one's own problems in context
- To get along with people different from one's self



Indirect Service

*Drives, Collections, Fundraisers, Clean-ups,
Construction, Environmental....*

Students Learn:

- To work in a team and cooperate
- To play different roles in a group
- To take pride in an accomplishment
- To organize people to get a job done
- To involve others (recruit them to help)
- To perform project-specific skills
- To value working with others to solve problems



**Feeding the
Community**

Advocacy

Lobbying, Speaking, Performing...

Students Learn:

- To persevere
- To articulate a concern and suggest solutions
- To persuade people to act in a new way
- To understand relationships among issues
- To appreciate the duties and privileges of citizenship
- To appreciate the political process

