

Why should I incorporate Service Learning in my classroom?

What is Service Learning?

Service Learning is a dynamic teaching and learning method that actively engages students and enriches learning by connecting meaningful service experiences with learning, personal growth, and civic responsibility.

Service Learning is students actively participating in the process understanding, integrating, and applying knowledge from various subject areas as they work to improve their communities.

Service Learning is a type of Project-Based learning.

Service Learning is not just the act of community service.

What are the benefits of Service Learning?

For Students: Develops 21st century skills, self-esteem and motivation, a sense of social responsibility and civic engagement, compassion and empathy.

For Teachers: Promotes positive school climate, fulfill learning objectives, and create a cooperative learning environment.

For Schools: Promotes school pride and engagement, acts as an avenue for increasing achievement, positive public relations.

For the Community: Meets community needs, creates reciprocal partnerships, students become active citizens.

Where do I start?

- Identify a service or volunteer opportunity to turn into service learning
- Begin with a standard curriculum, content, and skills and find a way to extend it into service
- Start with a theme or unit of study to identify content and skill connections
- Start with a student identified need
- Start with a community identified need

What key components of a service learning project?

Meaningful Service: Applying problem-solving and critical thinking skills to community and civic needs in real-world environments.

Youth Voice: Engaging the vision and leadership of young people as valued contributors to society by integrating their ideas into the selection, design, implementation, and evaluation of service-learning experiences.

Diversity: Fostering civil discourse and democratic values through the inclusion of diverse perspectives and experiences, and through a respect for all learners.

Curriculum Integration: Embedding service-learning experiences in curricular goals and standards to drive student learning of concepts, content, and skills in academic disciplines and co-curricular settings.

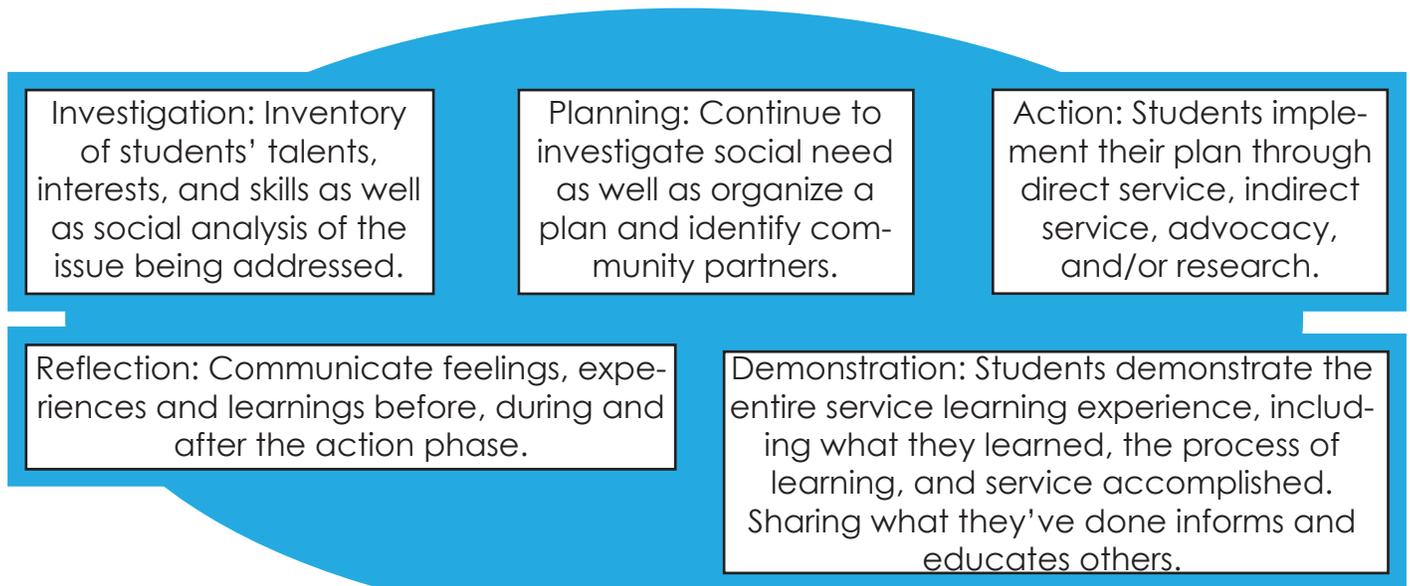
Reciprocal Partnerships: Leveraging community assets and promoting collaborative communication and interaction among stakeholders.

Reflection: Facilitating continuous reflection before, during, and after the service experiences—using multiple, cognitively challenging methods to encourage critical and creative thinking that addresses learning objectives.

Duration: Ensuring that service and learning experiences are of sufficient intensity and duration (or equal to one semester), so that all phases of planning, through project evaluation, are included. Process Monitoring: Analyzing student reflections and assessment measures, in combination with project and partner evaluation data, for continuous review and improvement.

What is the IPARD Model?

IPARD stands for Investigation, Planning, Action, Reflection, and Demonstration. Through this framework, with input from your students, you can create a meaningful Service Learning Project.



How can Children, Inc. help?

Provide consultation & assistance in the formatting of Service Learning projects using the IPARD model to an individual teacher, school, or school district.

Help locate community partners, guest speakers, and resources to carry out the project.

Connect you with other educators effectively incorporating Service Learning in their classroom.

Help share the work of your students with the community.