

Child Development Center Project Executive Summary

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Day One Leadership SLCE 1002

Mississippi State University

Project Executive Summary

Project Executive Item 1: Our Project and Its Benefit

This semester the “Playground Heroes” of the Day One Leadership Program was very eager and excited to start working with our community partner. We were assigned to the Child Development & Family Studies Center on campus. Our team members are Ambra Collins, Tyler Trapani, Karly Cuevas, Jarrell Oatis, and Jasmine Pippins. The main goal of the Child Development Center is to provide an environment that practices respect, consistency, and balance. One of our overall goals was to first meet the Child Development Center’s expectations and that their expectations aligned with our own personal goals.

We started out talking very closely with Ms. Melissa of the Child Development Center (CDC) to come up with a game plan and goals for the semester. Our initial plan that we wanted to accomplish was to refurbish various aspects within the CDC. One of our first goals was to clean and repaint the chalk board in the CDC. Our next goal was to repaint the outside kitchen set to make it look more appealing. The next goal on our checklist was to repair two of the outside gardens. Along with the garden, we wanted to leave a butterfly identification sign, which would leave an educational aspect within the children.

Our team was able to accomplish all of our goals that we originally set out to do. We wanted to provide a safe playground environment that is also educational for the children of the Child Development Center and by completing all of these goals we were able to provide a safe and educational environment. When we set out to repaint the chalkboard leading to the outside playground, we wanted the children to be able to draw that special image in their minds before they went out to play. When we set out to refurbish the outside gardens, we wanted to leave an educational mark by creating a butterfly garden with a butterfly identification sign. The purpose

of the sign was for the children to be able to identify a butterfly they have seen. As we visited our community partner, each of us worked with about three to five people weekly, and traveled about four miles. We have diligently collected seventy-five hours and twenty-five minutes.

Project Executive Item 2: Lessons Learned

The greatest challenges that we faced during the semester were communication, time management, and cooperation. These challenges were the core issues of our group, and it was crucial to overcome them quickly. These challenges were at the forefront of our minds and motivated us to get done with our project goals. We started to build our communication skills through the help of a messenger app. This communication method helped us share ideas as well as issues although we were not in class. In order to be more punctual, we had to first acknowledge that we had a problem with being timely. Each of us had to realize that being late or not showing up at all could affect the team's overall performance. This helped us work more cooperatively. We started to put more effort into working towards a common goal.

Everything that was for the Child Development and Family Studies Center took dedication. The most important aspect that we learned through the Day One Leadership Program was the importance of leadership. Leadership is an important factor for making a team successful. Furthermore, we learned to always leave a good impression, because it will linger long after the initial encounter. Equally, the importance of respecting one another was gained. Respect is important, because it shows that a person values another person as an individual, as well as the personal rights and dignity of another person. The lessons that we learned through the Day One Leadership Program will definitely be used later on in life. They will also help us in the workplace and help us guide others throughout our lives.