

Child Development Center II Project Executive Summary

Project Executive Item #1:

Our group, The Kiwi Whisperers, which is an extension of the Kiwi Pod, were paired with the Child Development Center II as our community partner for the Day One Leadership Program. As a group, we went to the center and saw the lack of color and games and decided to make the center a little more bright and colorful. We decided to go with games that can improve social activities and develop cognitive skills. Games like hopscotch and tic-tac-toe definitely will improve cognitive and learning abilities while the alphabet caterpillar can help some of the three year olds start learning the alphabet. Our director, Mrs. Lucy, also wanted us to build a bus out of extra wooden pallets and old chairs to provide a place for imagination that the children can enjoy. After we finished the bus, we had a ribbon cutting the following day.

We were also able to make good relationships with the staff as well as the children while easing the workload off Mrs. Lucy. More accomplishments included setting an example of teamwork, promoting flexibility and accountability, showing effective time management and good positivity, and last but not least, and developing confidence. Each group member served at the CDC on their own designated day. In addition to all of the days we met up at the childcare center, three group members went every Tuesday, two others went every Thursday, and one group member went every Friday. Overall, our total volunteer hours were 181 hours and 35 minutes.

Project Executive Item #2: Leadership Lessons Learned

Ultimately, the group developed many leadership skills and applied these to our overall project. The skills acquired and lessons learned include creating a good example for other members of the community, enhancing the social activity between the children, and increasing the cognitive skills of the children. Hopefully the children will enjoy our efforts and utilize the games to their advantage. One of our challenges include miscommunication. For example, our

team's vision of the outcome of the bus was different than what Mrs. Lucy expected us to accomplish. We were, however, able to overcome this challenge by double-checking with the director about what she wanted us to do and coming to one cohesive understanding. Other challenges include equally distributed responsibility and time efficiency. During the beginning of our project, we underestimated how much time commitment was required to successfully complete this project, but throughout the semester we overcame this by increasing our time spent at the CDC per week. One of the most important leadership lessons we have learned is that serving the community can place future work preferences into mind. Another leadership lesson that we learned is to learn how to communicate with each other, children and staff of the Child Development Center. We expected to learn how to become a better leader. We were surprised to learn how quickly we could accomplish some things when we work as a team. One of the lessons that we have learned that we can apply in the future is knowing how to work well with groups of people. Another lesson that will help us in the future is having confidence to take on projects that we may not have much knowledge on and being able to complete them.