

Planning for Service Learning: *Example*

Elementary, Community Safety

Grade level: **Elementary K–6**

NOTES: Disciplinary referrals reduced dramatically through this project.

CONTENT—LEARNING ABOUT:

- Respectful peer and cross-age relationships
- Conflict: current and in literature and history
- Peer mediation and problem-solving strategies

SERVICE NEED: Youth need to learn a variety of solutions and strategies to support caring relationships at school; their participation as leaders and partners can improve the community.

SERVICE IDEA: Peace Keepers Everywhere

Students partner with the administration and faculty by becoming:

- 1) peacekeepers (grades 3–4) who help on the playground and school buses when problems between children arise,
- 2) trained student mediators (grades 4–5) for student-to-student problem solving,
- 3) or by having all students study and practice conflict resolution strategies in their classrooms.

PREPARATION: Training provided to students and teachers by local community organization for both roles, which includes learning about conflict resolution and problem solving, using role plays, discussions, and continued meetings throughout year. All classes participate in peacekeeper education activities.

IMPLEMENTATION: Students perform their roles as peer mediators or peacekeepers in pairs and report results back to teachers and their peers.

REFLECTION: Journals and discussion: Students agree to make journal entries on the days when they perform their roles, and teachers give feedback and group discuss experiences, thoughts, and feelings.

DEMONSTRATION: Students showcase skills at open house and at partner agency board meeting, and discuss program impact with administrators. Student-written information about this project is presented to all new students who enroll. Students write stories to demonstrate knowledge.

YOUTH VOICE and CHOICE: Participation in peer mediation program; preparation of written materials.

CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS:

- 📖 *English/Language Arts:* Oral presentations on the program and student roles, examining conflict in literature from *Peter Rabbit* to *Bat 6* to *The Misfits*, and journal writing
- 📖 *Social Studies/History:* Studying conflict in historical events and role playing new solutions, media study of bullying in popular culture (for example, TV, film, etc.)
- 📖 *Mathematics:* Record keeping about frequency of mediations, review statistics about reduction in referrals with counselors
- 📖 *Science:* Body chemistry during stressful times and relaxation
- 📖 *Languages:* Translation of student brochures for second-language needs of students and parents
- 📖 *Art and Music:* Second grade students perform *Hey, Little Ant!* for all students and give out discussion questions for teachers to use in follow-up activities
- 📖 *Other:* Third graders lead yoga classes for all grades to teach a new way to be calm

SKILL DEVELOPMENT:

- Organizing ideas in writing
- Group dynamics and social interaction
- Communication and public speaking
- Problem solving

BOOKS:

Peter Rabbit (grades K–1)

Nobody Knew What to Do: A Story about Bullying (grades 1–2)

How Humans Make Friends (grades 1–3)

Increase the Peace: The ABCs of Tolerance (grades 1–6)

We Can Work It Out: Conflict Resolution for Children (grades 1–3)

Hey, Little Ant! (grades 1–6)

Bat 6 (grades 4–6)

The Misfits (grades 5–6)

COMMUNITY CONTACTS:

Community Mediation Services (a local agency that runs conflict resolution workshops)

PTSA