



Early Childhood, Education, and Services Project Ideas

INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

"Because You and I Say So"

The goal of this project is to learn positive ways to resolve conflicts with children. First, list examples of when children and workers disagree. Research problem-solving strategies used with children. Try different strategies on the job. Evaluate what works best. Report what you learned to your supervisor. Teach strategies to co-workers.

"Intercultural Interactions"

The goal of this project is to build strong relationships with people of other cultures. Learn about the cultures of children who are cared for where you work. Look in books and on the Internet. Talk to teachers and other workers. Find out about adult-child relationships in other cultures. Think of ways to use this information where you work. Respect cultural traditions when you interact with parents and children. Share what you learn with your co-workers.

- Research and practice qualities that make parents trust child care workers.
- Observe how personality styles influence interactions.
- Organize child-parent activities to build positive family relationships.
- Combat child abuse by teaching anger management to adults.

MANAGEMENT SKILLS

"High Expectations"

The goal of this project is to develop high ethical standards. First, find out about organizations for people who work with children. Contact the organizations. Ask for a copy of their statement of ethics and/or professional standards. Compare the statements and standards. Make a statement of ethics for your career. Put it on a poster or plaque. Share your statement with your supervisor and fellow students.

"Technology Improvements"

The goal of this project is to improve use of technology on the job. Study how computers are used at your work site. They might be used to teach and entertain children, create bills, maintain

records, track employee work time, and more. Research one way computers could be used but are not. Visit other work sites. Talk to a computer teacher. Report your findings to your supervisor. Recommend whether or not your employer should start to use computers this way.

- Meet with your supervisor to ask for constructive criticism.
- Plan how to make the most of your time on the job.
- Recommend improvements for a church nursery.
- Organize co-workers to volunteer for an event that helps children.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP SKILLS

"Local Needs"

The goal of this project is to learn about market research. You conduct surveys and interviews to analyze if additional child care is needed in your community. Research information about the number of children who need care, what kind of care, what care is now available and how much families will pay. Summarize your findings in a report to your adviser. Evaluate whether a new child care business could make a profit. Write a press release and send it to the local newspaper.

"Planning for Success"

The goal of this project is to learn how to create a business plan. Find a child care service that does not have a business plan. It might be a nonprofit service or a small in-home business. Research information for its business plan. Write a draft of the plan. Share it with your adviser, supervisor, and its end user. Make changes. Give the finished plan to the service or business that could use it.

- Teach in-home care providers about related laws.
- Review emergency plans and train co-workers to know what to do.
- Spend unpaid time "shadowing" administrators as they handle financial aspects of a child care business.
- Research the feasibility of adding sick-child care or some other new program.