

Service Learning Option
Psychology 392
Spring, 2003 – Dr. Blakemore

To choose this option, you will make a commitment to volunteer at a community agency serving children, for at least two hours per week between Monday, January 27 (you may begin sooner) and Friday, April 25. If you do not volunteer during Spring Break (and you are completely free not to do so), be careful that you complete a full 12 weeks (24 one-hour sessions, or 12 two-hour sessions, or some other arrangement totaling 24 hours of time). Although less desirable, you may complete the option in 11 weeks, but you must complete 24 hours of volunteer time. You should receive signed verification of your attendance at the agency by agency personnel each time you attend, indicating that you completed the 24 total hours. Include this verification in your journal. If you wish to continue to volunteer after the semester is over, you may certainly do so. I encourage it. Please note that you must have *student liability insurance* to take part in service learning, and you must purchase it yourself at the Bursar's office (ask for the Psychology policy), and show me that you have done so. The cost is \$8.81 for the semester.

Verification of attendance at agency:

On the last page of this handout is a form that you should have signed by a staff member of the agency where you volunteer, each time you are there, indicating your attendance at the site. This should be turned in at the end of the semester, with your journal. You might make a copy of it on a regular basis, in case you lose it.

Journal:

You should complete a journal entry detailing when you were at the Center (beginning and end time and date), and a brief description of what you did. Each entry can be fairly short, or it can be longer and may include your feelings or thoughts about what took place, or how they might relate to the course material.

Longer entries are likely to help you with your paper, but they are not required. It would be perfectly acceptable to say something like this:

Monday, Feb. 3, 2003

Arrived 1:00 p.m.

Left 3:00 p.m.

Today I tutored MP. We worked on his math homework, and I helped him figure out how to do long division. He told me about his new television at home.

If your journal is complete, you will receive the entire credit for the journal (20 points).

Paper

In addition to the journal, you are to complete a final paper about your experiences at the agency, integrating your experiences with the academic content of the course. In the paper you should write a narrative about your experiences at the agency, detailing what you did, and what you learned while doing it. There are no hard and fast rules for this paper, because each student's experience will be different. However, to earn a high grade the paper will be more than a narrative of your experience. High quality papers will do a good job of integrating your experience with the course material. For example, we will have content on child abuse, divorce, and poverty. We will have content on family life, and the impact of television and other cultural experiences on children's development. We will have content on the different temperaments and personalities that children have. Can you use this content to understand the children you worked with – to make sense of their behavior? The more you can do that, the better your paper will be.

You should cite references to the textbook or the other assigned readings in your paper, and list them on a reference page following APA style. No additional library references are required for this paper, but you may include additional references if you choose to. The paper should be between 4 and 6 pages in length, double-spaced, typed, using a proportional 12-point font such as Times New Roman. The deadlines, points, and other information about the service learning option, journal, and paper are in the syllabus.

Agencies Where You May Serve:

I have contacted the following agencies where you can volunteer. If you have another agency in mind, I may well permit you to do your service learning experience there, just ask me about it.

SCAN, Stop Child Abuse and Neglect

(Also referred to as the Parent and Child Connection)

500 West Main Street

Fort Wayne

Contact: Paige Hamilton, 421-5000, ext. 2240

SCAN has many different programs, including a healthy families program and parent education programs.

Boys and Girls Clubs

2609 Fairfield Avenue

Fort Wayne

Contact: Chad Grieser

744-0998, extension 17

There are three clubs, but the largest one is at the Fairfield site. There are also many ways that students could volunteer, including working individually tutoring students or helping with homework.

Cornerstone Youth Center

Monroeville IN

Contact person: Kent L. Castleman, Director,

center 260-623-3972

cell 260-348-2973

cornerstone@dtnspeed.net

The Center serves teenagers, and has many evening and weekend hours when students could volunteer.

Northeastern Center

1800 Wesley Rd

Auburn IN

Contact: Kristin Ritchie

Child and Adolescent Case Manager for ASPIRE

(260) 349-2924

(260) 925-2453{12-3pm}

(260) 927-9211(3-6pm)

ookristinooo@hotmail.com

The ASPIRE program is an after-school program for 6- to 12-year-olds, some of whom have behavior disorders like ADHD, helping with homework and providing activities for the kids.

Park Center

909 State Blvd.

Fort Wayne

Contact: Anne Shirmeyer 482-9125, X 2007, volunteer coordinator

Park Center requires a 6 month commitment from volunteers, *so if you choose this site you must be willing to continue after the end of the semester*

Park Center is a comprehensive community mental health center, but they have several programs for children and adolescents including the Daybreak Children's Center.

