

Project Heart for the Elementary Club Setting – Prep Week(s)

End in Mind



- Students learn to build their own Project Heart, know the meaning of philanthropy, and feel what giving looks like in their lives. Students will work together as a group to meet a need or needs for their school site, neighborhood or greater community.
- Standards Addressed – [CASEL Core Competencies](#) sub-categories of Perspective-taking, Empathy, Communication, Social engagement, Teamwork, Recognizing strengths, Goal setting, Organizational skills, Identifying and Solving problems.

Time Commitment



- Each lesson is designed to take about 20-30 minutes, once per week for 8-10 weeks. During Lessons 5 and 6, students will choose a service project. Depending on the scope of the project, students will likely request additional days each week to do the project.

Tips



- Plan ahead for challenges! Take note of days and times with highest attendance to prioritize for Project Heart. Focus on communicating about Project Heart to your greater school community and program families. Invite school staff, teachers, custodians, nonprofit leaders, etc. Make an effort to specifically invite kids to participate in the program. Simply telling kids you think they would be good at something can make a huge impact on them!
- Staff implementing Project Heart can schedule an orientation. It's even better to have a network of staff across multiple schools or sites, and it is recommended that participating staff schedule 2-3 check-in meetings during implementation. Training and check-ins can be facilitated remotely for those outside of Northern Colorado. Please contact Director of Programs and Partnerships, Kelsey Noroski, at Kelsey.noroski@ottercares.org

Timeline Overview



- **Prep Week(s) – Get Excited!**
- Week 1 – Philanthropy and the 3Ts
- Week 2 – See it to be it!
- Week 3 – Community before self
- Week 4 – Discovering needs
- Week 5 – Design a service project
- Week 6 – Set goals and make a plan
- Week 7 – Use your 3Ts to make a difference
- Week 8 – Use your 3Ts to help your team finish the project
- Week 9 – Celebrate growing to give!

Appendices and Resources



[Appendix A](#) – Facilitator Kit; [Appendix B](#) – Games and Activities; [Appendix C](#) – Guest Speakers; [Appendix D](#) – Project Ideas, Nonprofits, and Financial Concerns; [Appendix E](#) – Letter Home, Rubric, and Planners



Prep Week(s): Get Excited for Project Heart!

Outcomes



- Students will recognize the word philanthropy and begin thinking about 3Ts
- Students will build wonder and curiosity about how they can help and give back

Vocabulary Keywords



- Philanthropy
- 3Ts – time, talent, and treasure

Materials Needed



- Books from list in [Appendix A](#)
- Laminated activity cards from the Project Heart companion file
- Project Heart bookmarks ([Resources](#))
- Copies of Letter for Home for all students ([Appendix F](#))

Facilitator Note:

A Note about Outcomes for Program Staff

- The goal for this week (or two) is to create excitement and curiosity about giving back. This is a chance for you and the kids to explore philanthropy together. It is meant to be an introductory week with hands-on experiences and very little direct instruction. You and the kids will be exploring books and concepts through activities and introducing your families to this upcoming program. There may be activities you do multiple times! Plan for at least 5 short 10-15 minute sessions during this prep week (or two weeks).

Prep Week Activities:



5-10 Minutes

- Try out an icebreaker or name game from [Appendix B](#).



5-10 Minutes

- Phil – An – Thro – Py Cards Activity ([Resources](#))
 - Tell the kids we're learning a new word. Have 4 volunteers take a card. See if they can figure out the "word" on each card (facilitate discussion).
 - You may need to drop hints to get the group to PHIL (fill the water glass), AN (ant), THRO (throw the paper airplane), PY (letter P), then see if they can put themselves in the right order with support of the group. Kids not holding cards should be cheering them on, saying the parts of the words, and helping them get into the right order.
 - Now show the "Philanthropy" card. Wrap up with something along the lines of, "Cool, you just learned this big word philanthropy, it's even hard for most adults to say! Project Heart is all about philanthropy, or giving back."





5-10 Minutes

- **Philanthropy Body Spelling**
 - Challenge students to spell the word using their bodies! You may want to show the “Philanthropy” card or write the word somewhere as a visual. Consider writing in all CAPS for a different challenge.
 - This challenge can be done with a large group, utilizing 3-4 kids per letter, on the ground, standing up with arms, or any other safe ways you all come up with!



5-10 Minutes

- **3Ts Cards Activity ([Resources](#))**
 - Tell the kids we’re learning a new phrase. Have 3 volunteers take the picture cards. See if they can figure out the “word” each image stands for (facilitate discussion).
 - Once they’ve figured them out (or it’s taking too long) everyone should say the words together TIME, TALENT, and TREASURE.
 - Then show the 3Ts card w/ the 3 words and wrap up with something along the lines of, “Now you know the 3 things you need to practice philanthropy and make a difference.”



10-20 Minutes

- **Book Exploration**
 - Use [Appendix A](#) to gather the recommended Project Heart companion books. This is a great time to make a plan for where the Project Heart books will be displayed and stored, separate from your regular library. If you are part of a school or nonprofit, [OtterCares](#) may be able to help you acquire the books.
 - There are many ways you can use these books during this Prep Week (or two):
 - **Pictures Walks:** A picture walk is a shared activity between a skilled reader and an emerging reader or group of pre-readers before actually reading a new story. Simply put, it is previewing the pictures in a storybook to ask questions, notice details, make connections and predictions, and wonder about what the words might say. Opportunities include using one book at a time with a whole group, pairs or small groups using multiple books, and staff or kids can lead variations of this simple activity.
 - **Read Alouds!** Staff or skilled youth readers can read to the whole group or small groups.
 - **Independent** exploration or reading of the books during free choice.



5-10 Minutes

- **Bookmarks and Letter**
 - Project Heart Bookmarks can be found on the [Resources page](#) or provided upon request from [OtterCares](#) and should be distributed mid-way through the prep week(s), after books have been previewed. Say, “You’re all getting so good at learning about philanthropy through stories that now you get to have your own bookmark! Let’s see what’s on it...” Invite students to read from the side with definitions, and then encourage kids to write one word or idea for each of the 3Ts on the side with blank lines. Send bookmarks home with kids!
 - Letters home to families can be found in [Appendix F](#). During the wrap up of your prep week(s), pass out the letters and discuss together (ask for older volunteers to read aloud). Point out the questions on the bottom and challenge kids to explain philanthropy using 3Ts. With remaining time, ask another pair of volunteers to model how it might go at their homes, then put straight into backpacks.

