

# BALAVIKAS SERVICE PROJECT

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## INTRODUCTION

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The Balavikas Service Project will introduce a quarterly service project for all the children, and their parents to participate in. All the temple devotees are also welcome to actively participate in these service projects.

## OBJECTIVE

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The objective of the service project is to teach young children the value of selfless service, to develop awareness of the needs of other fellow beings, to understand the value of sacrifice through sharing and caring, and to respect the environment that they live in.

## SERVICE PROJECTS

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1. Fall Service Project
2. Spring Service Project

## LESSONS AND ACTIVITIES ON SELFLESS SERVICE

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The teacher will share with the class stories and examples of people in the community, nation and the world who have rendered selfless service.

Stories can be from the epics to current children's stories such as the rainbow fish. Share a video of these stories with the children.

Let the children enact or role play some of the stories and let them express and share with the class how they felt after role playing or acting.

Encourage the children who have participated in a service project to share their thoughts and feelings with their peers.

The children create posters that depict ways that members of a family help each other every day.

Sing devotional songs that emphasize the value of service. For example the Gayathri mantra and Loka Samastha are selfless prayers for the upliftment and enlightenment of all of humanity.

Study ways to help and care for the earth and the environment.

Share the experiences of the service projects that the children have participated in with the community through a common newsletter. The information can be in the form of a short essay, an illustration, or photographs.

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## SUMMARY

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Selfless service is one of the highest forms of spiritual practices because it focuses on helping others.

Selfless service helps develop cooperation and tolerance.

Selfless service above all brings about the grace of God.