Situation

Employers are experiencing a declining pool of qualified workers and a reduction in the overall youth population, so they are having to draw on a youth population that is not prepared for the world of work. As many as half of our children are experiencing the loss of parental guidance due to economics, others by the increasing number of single parent households. Current forms of education are not preparing youth for the available jobs.

Boundary County is a rural area (population 8,639) with limited businesses and few opportunities for youth employment and training.

Our Response

The University of Idaho Cooperative Extension System in a cooperative effort with the Idaho Department of Employment Security provided training for youth age 14 to 19 in a Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). The grant for SYEP is through the Idaho Private Industry Council. Youth are selected for the program on the basis of poverty level income guidelines, the 70% lower living standard income guidelines and a school assessment (completed by teachers and counselors).

There were two parts to SYEP, the first being the youth hired to work in licensed daycares three days a week with one day of classroom training on child development/ preparation for working in a daycare, and a second day on employability skills and job relationship/citizenship skills. The second part of SYEP was youth from other places of employment (that were funded for single sites) who were included in the training on employability and citizenship skills.

Goals and Objectives of the Daycare Program

- learn about the stages of child development (physical, social, emotional, and mental growth)
- learn and develop educational activities for children (nutrition, food safety)
- learn how to structure the day for children of different age levels
- work with the day care operator to organize, supervise activities with children
- learn situational management and preventative problem solving skills to work with children
- learn CPR and First Aide for children

Goals and Objectives of the Job/Skills Citizenship Program

- learn how to complete a resume based on their skills
- practice interviewing skills
- be able to put a job skills profile together, including recommendations from employers
- be able to identify their own strengths and weaknesses
- be able to evaluate their own job performance
- become more self confident
- be able to work as part of a team
Achievements

Cooperative Extension in cooperation with Employment Security piloted a summer youth employment program in Boundary County to meet the Secretary’s Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills produced by the U.S. Department of Labor (SCANS report, 1991), which recommends basic competencies and foundation skills for solid job performance.

Four females, ages 16 & 17, participated in the daycare program which provided work experience 3 days a week in 4 licensed daycares for a six week period.

Each youth participating in the daycare program went away with an employment profile including: a resume, recommendations, and interview skill profile.

Four licensed daycare providers participated in teaching in the work experience program, teaching an hour to the daycare classes, and incorporating information presented in the program in their daycares. A cohesive unit was formed among daycares as a result of this program.

Nine youth, ages 14 to 17, males and females from the daycare program and single site programs, participated in the one day a week class focusing on job related skills such as interviewing, resume, job profiles, etc. and the Challenge Program (employee-employer relationships, team building, etc.).

Cooperators
County Assessors Office
Parks and Recreation Department
Employment Security
Grandview Cemetery
Gabby Goose Daycare
County Road and Bridges
Donna Discovery Pre-School & Daycare
Boundary County School Dist. #101
Gina’s House Daycare
Headstart
Erin Sandburg’s Daycare

Future
The University of Idaho Cooperative Extension has been asked to expand the program into Bonner County, if possible for summer 1995 and to continue the program in Boundary County in 1995.

For more information
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