

Love, Nana: Applied Vocational Skills & Workforce Readiness

Love, Nana is the community service initiative of Backyard Players. The program collects donated new and gently used baby clothing and transforms these donations into baby bundles for mothers and babies in need.

Through participation in Love, Nana, students build skills aligned with career development, integrated learning, and universal foundation skills, preparing them for success across a range of employment settings.

Love, Nana participants wash and dry clothing, pick and fulfill orders, assemble bundles, and plan and host field trips and experiential visits for schools and community organizations. Through this work, students are introduced to workplace readiness, community participation, and shared responsibility through authentic, hands-on vocational experiences.

Core Vocational & Functional Skills

Students learn and practice:

- Professional communication with community members, donors, visitors and volunteers
- Following multi-step directions and managing time effectively
- Completing tasks within a structured routine
- Transitioning between tasks and workspaces
- Accepting feedback and redirection
- Working independently and as part of a team
- Workplace safety and hygiene
- Problem-solving, self-monitoring and self-correction

Functional Job Skills

Students perform hands-on tasks that directly build job readiness:

- Assembly, sorting, preparing, packaging and fulfillment of orders
- Inventory management
- Event planning, organization, setup and preparation
- Customer service and public-facing support
- Attention to detail and quality control
- Develop and follow a schedule and agenda
- Developing leadership skills and responsibility
- Textile care and maintenance

These skills translate directly to jobs in:

- Retail operations
- Fulfillment and logistic services
- Healthcare support
- Office and administrative settings
- Childcare and youth programs
- Facilities and environmental services
- Hospitality and visitor services
- Libraries, Schools and Community Programs
- Nonprofit and social enterprises
- Supported employment settings