

Creating a Culture of Service in our Families, in 0 minutes, 5 minutes, a few hours, or ½ day!

Families can do small acts of service in whatever time we have! Service doesn't have to be an event requiring a large block of time. Service that takes "0 minutes" means having things around the home that children can do on their own, or things that we would do anyway: tell stories, read books, sing songs, or post pictures. Choose some topics that create a culture of service in our homes.

	Serving a Neighbor	Serving a Grandparent	Missionaries (in LDS church or any other)	Family members
0 minutes	Have books in your home about being a good friend and neighbor. (see handout for book ideas)	Sing "I Have a Family Tree" (<i>Children's Songbook</i> 199)	Post a picture of someone your family knows who is serving in the field.	Genuinely say, "You really tried hard on that" or "I love you."
5 minutes	Pick a wild flower and take it to a neighbor and see how they're doing.	Call or send a postcard or letter. You likely do this already - frame it as service, cheering those who might be slower or lonely.	When you have the missionaries for dinner, ask them how they're serving in the community.	Help with a chore for someone, like helping set the table when it's not your turn.
A few hours (either Family Night or during the day)	Make a double batch of dinner and take it to someone in need.	Interview a grandparent (your own or someone else's) about what they've done for others that they are proudest of.	Write a letter to a missionary in the field.	Offer to help a sibling with homework. Read a book or do an art project with a younger child.
½ day	Clean up a yard cleanup or shovel snow for someone in need.	Put on a show for your grandparents or someone else's (i.e. a nursing home). This can be singing or acting out a beloved story like the Nativity at Christmas or a modified Little Red Riding Hood (starring a grandma!).	Put together a CARE package to a missionary in the field.	Tackle the yard together or that pile of stuff in the basement.