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Landcare Project

This will be my first year competing in Grayson Land Care and I have set three goals for my project. My goals are as follow: Educate parents, save the environment and safer products for infants, and Entrepreneurship. I want to accomplish these goals to better the community and our only earth. We live in a small community that doesn't have a business like the one that we are aiming for. We face many struggles living in a small community. For example, we have to travel farther away to purchase items or go to the mall, or if we can't travel we have to order online. There is also problem in that because people might not have access to a computer, internet, or doesn't know how to use one. We need to grow more locally and not give the big corporation a lot of power. I'm not only aiming for a business, but also a change in our environment and how we take care of our babies. Grayson County doesn't have many things to educate parents about diapering and that there is options.

I would like to increase awareness and educate parents as my first goal. Parents need to be informed that there are other products than what chain stores have. Many products that you use for your babies have toxic chemicals in them. My major concern are diapers. That is what is on your baby 100% of the time from when they are born to about two year olds. Which is a very prolong amount of time to be exposed to all the harsh chemicals that are on the nappies, as they call them outside of America. Many of the brand name diapers have cancer causing chemicals or toxics. There are many factors to consider for diapering. There are more than just disposable diapers. Parents only have to choices and it's either disposable or cloth diapers, but it has because less of a dilemma and more of a foregone conclusion. Also, cloth wipes are easy to make and use. Parenting has already its own struggles, and by informing them of what they are putting on their infant's skin maybe it can be easier on the parents.

My second goal for this project is to inform the community about the benefits of cloth

diapers and other safer products. We have come a long way since folding flat pieces of cloth and securing them with pins. We have evolved since then and so has the way cloth diapers are used. There are so many benefits from choosing cloth diapers over disposable diapers when diapering your baby. The one that most parents are excited about is that you save money. Some people might disagree on this but, many parents that have used clothed diapers have proven that you do save money. Some parents say that by washing cloth diapers you are wasting as much money as disposable diapers. Cloth diapering moms have proven them wrong by measuring the water and electricity they use when washing cloth diapers. People have also said that you are not saving the environment by washing cloth diapers because you are wasting water. There are also diaper services that will launder the cloth diapers. Company owners of diaper service say that they wash three days' worth of customers diapers with the same amount of water used in a single toilet flush. The problem with cloth diaper services is that there are only located in big cities. Even in an ABC news article it says that most Americans doesn't have access to them. If we had a business like this in Grayson County it will open doors to new jobs, give parents options, and save the environment. Another factor is that you are also saving the earth. By choosing cloth diapers you are keeping disposable diapers out of our landfills. We only have one earth and we need to conserve it as much as we can. I have just finished parenting class last semester. In that class I learned that when a baby is in the womb it is covered with vernix. Which some experts say that if they could replicate that they would use it as cream to treat burns. So, if your baby is covered with the finest stuff since the womb wouldn't you want that when they are in the outside world? Cloth diapers are soft and chemical free. If your grandparents used them then you know that they are good. There is also ways that you can make your own detergent at home so you can wash your diapers.

I would also like to inform parents of all the risk a disposable diaper has. Let's start off with a little bit of the history of a disposable diaper. Nobody knows exactly who to credit for the invention of disposable diapers but Marion Donovan is the most known to be credited. During World War two there had been a shortage of cotton so, this was one factor of why it was introduced. Donovan had a creative spirit and invented the "boater" as this is what she reference

her invention of the disposable diapers. From then it has evolved. They are more absorbent and convenient to just throw them away in the trash. But all this comes at a cost not only to your baby but to our environment. There are many chemicals in a disposable diapers that cause all kinds of alarming health issues. Some examples: cancer, asthma, fail reproduction, toxic shock syndrome, etc. As I looked up the definition for a disposable diaper one website told me it contain absorbent chemicals and that they are thrown away after use. Some of the harsh chemicals that are in disposable diapers are SAP and this ingredient has been linked to toxic shock syndrome. This is one example of the many harsh things a disposable diapers have.

My third goal is entrepreneurship. Attending Grayson County Public Schools have giving me the opportunity to take many business classes. By this I have open my eyes that there are many things we can do to help and improve the community. We should always try to grow locally and help our local farmers that have been for a long time. By having a clothing diaper service you are also teaching parents about other options they have. There are many empty spaces that can be filled with a business and this is a good one that we need.