



Ohio 4-H Cloverbud Connections



Winter 2007 Issue

For 4-H Cloverbud Volunteers working with grades K-2

Teaching Techniques that Work

There are endless theories or guidelines about teaching, learning, and education for children of 4-H Cloverbud age. Let's cut to the chase about what works for this age group. Below are 10 time-tested techniques to put into action as 4-H Cloverbud leaders:

- 1 Use cooperative-learning techniques as children work on activities together.
- 2 Allow children to be creative and make choices during the activities.
- 3 Accommodate short-attention spans with short-termed activities.
- 4 Engage children in non-competitive activities to foster internal motivation without setting up categories or classes that create inequities.
- 5 Make considerations to ensure that the activities are safe.
- 6 Allow children to gain confidence and promote self-esteem by mastering 4-H Cloverbud activities.
- 7 Serve as a nurturing role-model with enthusiasm and interest.
- 8 Value sharing and respect among 4-H Cloverbud members.
- 9 Focus on the process of doing the activities, rather than the product.
- 10 Make activities fun and positive experiences.

These techniques are not just about children gaining knowledge or specific content, but rather gaining life skills for healthy development: life skills of getting along with others, self-confidence, and decision making. These life skills will benefit children for a lifetime.

Click it, Print it, Do it!

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Are you looking for an activity to help your Cloverbuds learn about love and sharing? Check out the resource provided in the Click it, Print it, Do it activity. Instructions are included for a "Valentine Community Service" activity that you can do with your Cloverbuds at the next meeting. ♥♥



*Scott D. Scheer, Ph.D.
State Specialist, Preadolescent Education
4-H Youth Development, The Ohio State University*

4-H CLOVERBUD FUN AT THE FAIR

The county fair offers a great venue for showcasing the 4-H Cloverbud program. There are many fun activities that counties across Ohio are doing. This article is intended to give you some ideas that you might use at your own county fair.

When planning a 4-H Cloverbud fair event, keep these points in mind:

- Provide activities where all children can gain confidence and build on their self esteem.
- Design activities to be non-competitive.
- Give equal recognition to all participants.

The following are some ideas for 4-H Cloverbud county fair activities. Due to space limitations in this newsletter, there isn't room for complete explanations of each event, so an e-mail contact has been provided. Please follow up with one of these OSU Extension staff members for more details.

*Equine Fun Day – a 4-H Cloverbud “horse show” that mimics a real show by offering classes such as stick horse showmanship, barrel racing and lead in line (Cloverbud leads their advisor or parent). Contact reed.192@osu.edu



*Show and Tell – individuals or groups present a topic of interest. Contact reed.192@osu.edu

*Big Wheel Adventure – plastic big wheel bikes maneuver through an obstacle course or track. Contact wittenaur.3@osu.edu

*Rooster Crowing and Duck Run – both events held simultaneously. Ducks waddle down an alley made with chicken wire fence. Contact wittenaur.3@osu.edu



*Hobby Horse Show, Clover Clues Games, Calico Critters (dress up). Contact wittenaur.3@osu.edu

*Activity Stations – Cloverbuds rotate between three stations. Contact nichols.210@osu.edu

*Fair Scavenger Hunt, Games and Crafts – Contact gwilliams.1@osu.edu

*Pet Parade – Contact murphy.53@osu.edu

*Craft Corner – one hour make and take craft. Contact mcclaskey.12@osu.edu



*Veggie Mania – decorate and display a garden veggie. Contact roth.4@osu.edu

*Peter Pumpkin Club (display pumpkins), Sawdust Scramble (search for money in sawdust), Fitness and Nutrition Day (games and activities related to nutrition). Contact rus-sell.388@osu.edu



I hope you can use some of these ideas to have a lot of “Cloverbud Fun at Your Fair”!



Vicki L. Reed
 Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development
 Muskingum County, Ohio

Family Flower Power

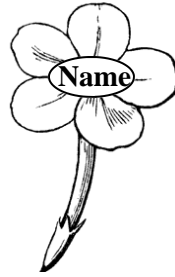
Materials: construction paper, markers or crayons

A family is made up of people that we love. They may not be naturally related to us (for example step families, foster families) but our lives are made even more special because they are part of us.

Give each child a sheet of construction paper. Tell them they are about to make a family flower. Have them give examples of how to draw the flower. Ask them to begin by drawing a circle on their paper and have them write their name in the middle of the circle. Then ask them to draw a petal around the circle for each member of their family. Put each person's name on his or her petal. For example, one family might consist of a mother and child.

When everyone is finished, have each child stand up and tell the group who makes up their family flower picture.

Application: Every flower is different, just like every family is different - and that is great. Encourage children to pay attention to other families they see at the grocery store and other public places so that they will become more aware of diversity within families.



Family Composition

Materials: construction paper, magazines, scissors, and glue

Explain to the group that any number of people can belong to a family. Some families have one parent, some have two, and some have many. Family members can be any age. Ask the members how many people are in their families. Have the children look through the magazines and cut out pictures of several families. They can make a collage of families by gluing the pictures on the construction paper.

Application: Have the children work with the parent to make a list of families they know who have different numbers of members. Have them start with one and see how high they can go.



Source: *Ohio 4-H Cloverbud Curriculum - Series II "Valuing Families."* Authors: Joyce Shriner, Hocking County; Demetria Woods, Miami County. OSU Extension.

Family Potpourri Picture

Materials: 2 (5oz.) bags of potpourri, paper plates, glue, newspaper, hole puncher, family photographs, drinking cups (9oz.), markers or crayons (optional), and 1½ ft. yarn pieces

Preparation: Ask each member to bring a wallet size or 3½ inch by 5 inch family photo, (If most of the children do not have photos, they may draw and color a family picture in the center of their plates instead). Cut yarn into 1½ ft. pieces, one per child.

There are about as many kinds of families as there are different types of people living in them. A nuclear family is made up of children and the mother and father to whom they were born or adopted. Different relatives like mom, dad, children, grandma, and an uncle, living together form an extended family. One parent lives with the children in a single-parent family. In a blended family or step family, people live together who used to live in other families. No matter what kind of family you have, all families are special.

Spread newspaper over tables. Tell the group they are about to make a lovely picture frame for their family. Pass out a paper plate to each child and a half cup of potpourri. Have them punch two holes along the top edge of the plate (younger members may need assistance). Carefully glue the family picture in the center of the plate. Place glue around edges of the plate. Lightly sprinkle potpourri on glue. Allow to set for a while, then gently shake off excess. Use yarn to make hanger for frame. Place ends of yarn through holes in plate. Secure by tying ends into a knot. Trim extra yarn.

Application: Think about other things that are special about your family. Ask the group if during the discussion they recognized their family. Can they think of other types of families (foster, adoptive)?

Reading Adventures

This listing of reading materials can be used as background information, for sharing before the group activity to set the stage for learning, or for sharing afterwards to reinforce the activity.

- ◆ *Adoption is for Always*, by Linda Walvoord Girard
- ◆ *Daddy Doesn't Live Here Anymore*, by Betty Boegehold
- ◆ *Every Kid's Guide to Family Rules and Responsibilities*, by Joy Berry
- ◆ *Every Kid's Guide to Handling Fights with Brothers and Sisters*, by Joy Berry
- ◆ *Every Kid's Guide to Understanding Parents*, by Joy Berry
- ◆ *How Does it Feel When Your Parents Get Divorced?*, by Terry Berger

Campus Connections

Hello 4-H Cloverbud Volunteers!!!

Do you have a hard time sitting still? Do you like to fidget? Don't worry, movement is one of the ways our brain develops and grows, especially for children!!

When you are having circle time with 4-H Cloverbud children by reading a book or sharing with each other, you will notice that many of the kids just can't sit still! That is OK! Not only are their brains growing (as dendrites grow and connect with play and physical movement), but so are their bodies. Through movement, muscles and bones are strengthened. Too much "sitting still" at the computer, on the floor, or in front of the TV does not have the developmental benefits of play and exploration through movement.

Be careful with bribes or rewards to keep our 4-H Cloverbud children sitting still and paying attention. Let's keep their attention through activities and play that is based on their own interest, not someone else's; otherwise the bribes or rewards will need to get bigger to achieve the same effect (Hunter, 2000).

Our 4-H Cloverbud curriculum, across eight different subject areas, provides a variety of activities that are short-term and includes physical movement of both fine and gross motor skills. Therefore 4-H Cloverbud children stimulate their brains and the bodies while having fun at the same time.

So if you still fidget and like to move around a lot as an adult, tell your critics, my brain is still developing and growing! Don't let them know that by age 5, our brains have reached almost 90% maturity.

Well until next time, take care and have fun. I look forward to sharing more ideas with you soon.

Thanks for all you do as 4-H Cloverbud Leaders and Advisors!!

*Scott D. Scheer, Ph.D.
State Extension Specialist, Preadolescent Education
4-H Youth Development, The Ohio State University*



Personal Pizza

Ingredients needed per person:

½ English muffin
1/8 c. (1 oz) pizza sauce
1/8 c. (1 oz) part-skim mozzarella cheese
1/8 c. toppings (pepperoni, mushrooms, diced ham, cooked lean hamburger, chopped onion, peppers, black olives, etc.)

Equipment:

Small bowls, 1/8 c. dry measuring cups, plastic knives, pot holders, baking sheet, serving spatula, plates, and napkins.

Procedure:

Before the meeting, chop the toppings and place each in a small bowl. Preheat the oven to 350° F. Have Cloverbuds wash their hands for 20 seconds before starting to prepare the recipe. Spread 1/8 c. pizza sauce on the cut side of the English muffin using a plastic knife. Add toppings and sprinkle with cheese. Place pizzas on an un-greased baking sheet. Bake for about 8 minutes or until the cheese melts. Serve immediately.

*Joyce Shriner
Extension Educator, FCS/County Extension Director
OSU Extension, Hocking County, Ohio*



Ohio State University Extension

Cloverbud Connections is published four times annually by OSU Extension in Monroe and Hocking Counties, providing volunteers and teachers working with kindergarten through second grade access to unbiased, research-based information.

Editors: Bruce P. Zimmer, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development, Monroe County, 101 North Main Street, Room 17, Woodsfield, Ohio 43793, Phone - (740) 472-0810, E-mail – zimmer.2@osu.edu; Joyce A. Shriner, Extension Educator, Family & Consumer Sciences, Hocking County, 150 North Homer Avenue, Logan, Ohio, 43138-1730, Phone – (740)385-3222, E-mail – shriner.3@osu.edu.

Design & Production: Jennie Shaw, Support Staff, OSU Extension, Monroe County.

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