

Ohio 4-H Cloverbud Connections

For 4-H Cloverbud Volunteers
Working with Kindergarten to Second Grade

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Maker Movement: 4-H Cloverbud Style

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Reaching youth at a young age is critical for making a positive impact on their healthy development. The 4-H Cloverbud program, as part of the overall 4-H effort, is an ideal way to do that in conjunction with the maker movement. The maker movement is a forward thinking trend which promotes creativity, designing, inventing, and social interaction. Since the overall goal of the Cloverbud program is to promote life skills of self-confidence, social abilities, decision-making capabilities, and subject matter knowledge, it works particularly well with the maker movement. The maker movement gives Cloverbud members the freedom to create and design things that can range from arts/crafts to robotic technologies.

It is now more important than ever for our youngest 4-H members, often referred to as Cloverbuds, to be involved in their own learning that is hands-on, cutting edge, and embraces creativity. The maker movement embodies this approach of engaging 4-H Cloverbud members to create, share, learn, and give.

Mark Hatch (2014), one of the global leaders of the maker movement, states that it is best understood by nine characteristics:

- 1) Make – making is basic to being human and whole
- 2) Share – sharing what you make brings about wholeness
- 3) Give – giving what you make to others is selfless and satisfying
- 4) Learn – learning is life long and you must learn to make
- 5) Tool up – need access to materials and supplies to make
- 6) Play – be playful while making for discovery and creativity
- 7) Participate – participate with others and your community while making
- 8) Support - needed to help others make, especially children and those lacking resources
- 9) Change – embrace change that occurs while on your maker journey. The nine characteristics of the maker movement go hand-in-hand with the goals and focus of the 4-H Cloverbud program.



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Cloverbud Resources and Afterschool Programs

By Demetria Woods, 4-H Educator, Miami County (OSU Extension)

Afterschool care is something that millions of working parents rely on across the nation. Finding a quality program that fits the parameters needed for their family is essential and requires research. Numerous studies have shown many positive benefits for children who participate in quality afterschool programs, such as better academic performance, increased self-esteem, improved social skills, and healthier lifestyles by encouraging physical activity and expanding nutritional knowledge (http://www.sedl.org/pubs/sedl-letter/v20n02/afterschool_findings.html). The assurance of knowing that their child has a safe, structured place to go while they are at work is a “priceless” benefit to parents that can also affect employers. Annually, worker stress due to parental concern about afterschool care can cost “businesses between \$50 billion to \$300 billion in lost job productivity”

(<http://www.catalyst.org/media/study-finds-working-parents-concerned-about-after-school-care-companies-losing-billions-job>).

One key component of quality programs is strong partnerships. 4-H is uniquely positioned to serve as a resource partner for afterschool providers. The Ohio 4-H Cloverbud program helps to “enhance the life skills (self-esteem, getting along with others, physical mastery, decision making, and learning to learn) and healthy development of program participants” (<https://ohio4h.org/cloverbudresources>). It offers a variety of easy-to-use materials that feature low-cost, hands-on, age-appropriate activities that can aid providers in saving time and money. Featuring science and technology, healthy lifestyles, communication, citizenship, career awareness, and much more - Cloverbud Resources offer many fun, interesting topics and activities for youth and afterschool providers to explore.

To learn more about Cloverbud Resources visit: <https://ohio4h.org/cloverbudresources> .

CampusConnections

By Scott D. Scheer, PhD., State Extension Specialist
4-H Youth Development (The Ohio State University)



Hello again! Great to make this 4-H Cloverbud Connection with you.

It is that time of the year as kids head back to school, tree leaves change into pretty colors, and the heat of summer fades into brisk mornings that excites the senses. This is a great time of the year to think about your 4-H Cloverbud Club and the important role you have as the Advisor/Leader. One way to view community 4-H clubs is within the realm of after-school programs. I bring this up because many Cloverbud groups meet during non-school hours. There are huge benefits of afterschool programs that have been proven for advancing academic performance, physical health, and providing for a safe/secure environment. In short, all of this happens with what you do as a 4-H Cloverbud advisor. Keep this in mind when you have doubts of the importance of what you do or that the time you spend with Cloverbud kids matter.

Thanks for your commitment to the 4-H Cloverbud program as we enhance the healthy development of children throughout the state!



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

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Looking for a lesson or activity for your next meeting? Check out the most recent Click It, Print It, Do It activity for your Cloverbuds.