



4-H — A Family Affair
News for New 4-H Families

Issue 2

To the Parents of a New 4-H Member

Greetings!

By now you and your child have had a taste of 4-H club experiences. We're glad that you have joined us as a 4-H family. Your child's development is important to us. Check out our website <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/boone/kidsteens.htm> or the Iowa 4-H website <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/> for more information about 4-H.

Sincerely,

County Extension Education Director

County Youth Coordinator



Mission of Iowa State University Extension

ISU Extension builds partnerships and provides research-based learning opportunities to improve the quality of life in Iowa.

Vision of Iowa Youth and 4-H

ISU Extension to Youth and 4-H is a leader in helping Iowa's youth become productive citizens and is a positive force to meet the changing needs of increasingly diverse and dynamic communities.

Mission of Iowa Youth and 4-H

To empower youth to reach their full potential working and learning in partnership with caring adults.

We emphasize these five outcomes to help youth become capable, competent, and caring citizens:

- * communication skills
- * citizenship skills
- * leadership skills
- * personal life management
- * knowledge



Helping Your Child Learn During Middle Childhood: Ages 9-11

Children grow because of the quality of experiences they have, not because of how well they do on a project or because of the ribbons they earn. You can encourage your child to learn by understanding their developmental stage. It is important to remember that every child is unique and special, yet some needs and interests are universal to all children to ensure successful development.

Characteristics

Active with boundless energy

Like group activity and belonging to a group.

Like to be with members of own sex.

Interests change rapidly.

Work best when tasks are presented in small pieces.

Need guidance from adults to stay on task.

Admire and imitate older boys and girls.

Motivated and eager to try new things.

Do not like to keep records. See no value in them.

Like symbols, ceremonies and songs.

Extremely curious and ask why.

Enjoy cooperation.

Show independence by disobedience, back-talk, and rebelliousness.

Need recognition and praise for doing good work.

Have feelings of competence that enhance self-concept.

Don't like comparisons with others.

Have limited decision-making ability.

Implications and Applications

Emphasize active learning experiences.

Emphasize group learning experiences.

Encourage learning experiences with members of same sex.

Encourage many brief learning experiences.

Need simple and short directions.

Work closely with this age group.

Encourage apprenticing with older youth.

Provide a wide variety of learning experiences.

Need assistance and supervision in completing records.

Hold initiation and installation ceremonies for new members and officers.

Do not answer all their questions. They will learn by finding some answers on their own.

Plan activities where youth work together.

When you notice these characteristics, allow youth to show independence. Ask them in which activities they would like to participate, and give individual attention.

Present recognition in front of peers.

Provide activities that will let youth succeed. Recognize them for their accomplishments.

Instead of comparing youth to each other, compare present to past performance of the individual.

Need adult guidance. Need to know steps and how to compare choices.



Dear 4-H Member

Hello!

We hope you are enjoying 4-H. You have attended meetings, learned the 4-H Pledge, made new friends, and started your project work. You are probably thinking about county fair, camps, and other summer activities, too. Setting project and exhibit goals will help you accomplish the things you want to do this year.

Is it a project?

Project--a year-long plan in a project area (ex: swine, computer, food and nutrition, etc.) which includes a variety of learning activities or events related to the topic. You enroll in projects each fall when you fill out the enrollment form. Record book forms should include many of the activities that you do throughout the year. You should have one project record form in your record book for each project area (not each fair exhibit).



Is it an exhibit?

Exhibit--a specific item, animal, presentation, etc., developed and prepared for the county fair. This is one part of your project work. Include information about this exhibit on the appropriate project record form in your record book. When your exhibit is evaluated at county fair you should be able to answer these questions for the judge: 1) What were your exhibit goals? 2) How did you work towards your goals? 3) What were the most important things you learned? and 4) What would you like to do in this project area next year?

Goal Centered Learning

Having goals is like having a road map. They help you decide how to get where you want to go. Your goals need to be ones you can control, not ones someone else controls. Use the 4-H resource *Achieving Goals through Recordkeeping* (4H 91) to help you.

Goals have three parts that you can measure and check. 1) The action is how you plan to do something. 2) The result is what you intend to do. 3) The timetable is when you plan to have the goal completed.



Writing project goals: Think about all the things you might do during the year related to the project area, then write your goals. Example: I want to learn (action) more about how to recycle aluminum cans and plastic jugs in my community (result) by the end of the school year (timetable).

Writing exhibit goals: Start with your project goals to help you think of possibilities for exhibit goals. Example: I will make (action) a poster on ways recycled plastic jugs are used (result) for the county fair (timetable).

Reaching Your Project Goals

You can accomplish your project goals through various activities and events such as:

- * regular club meetings;
- * working individually on projects or with parents, grandparents;
- * project meetings or workshops at club, county, or multi-county levels;
- * tours, trips, conferences, camps, and clinics;
- * doing citizenship and leadership activities; and
- * doing presentations, working exhibits, or Share-The-Fun.



Read your 4-H newsletter to find out more about opportunities for you in 4-H.

Preparing Exhibits for Fair

1. Decide which project areas for which you want to create fair exhibits (you do not need to exhibit in every project area you enroll in).
2. Exhibits may be: 1. actual items you make (food, wood products, photos, clothing), 2. a poster or notebook to tell about something, 3. something you grew (plants, veggies), or 4. an animal. The possibilities are endless.
3. Prepare your exhibit write up/goal card by answering the 4 questions in the exhibit section on the previous page.
4. Complete the fair entry form and goal card. Bring them with your exhibit to judging day at the county fair.
5. At the fair, visit with judges about your exhibits and display them in your club's booth.



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