



WELCOME TO CLOVER KIDS!

A 4-H Youth Development Program

*Where children experience the joy of learning
in a supportive, creative, challenging and fun environment.*

Clover Kids is an exciting 4-H program for youth in kindergarten through 3rd grade. Clover Kids was specifically developed to bring the life-skill building and experiential learning benefits of traditional 4-H to children in grades K-3. Its goal is to promote children's positive development through cooperative learning and developmentally appropriate activities.

Children participating in 4-H Clover Kids program will:

- * Meet new friends, learn and practice social skills by working and playing in small groups.
- * Gain self-confidence & learn about themselves in a non-competitive learning environment.
- * Experience the joy and fun of learning.
- * Master physical skills through hands on or experiential learning (learning by doing).

The key to a great Clover Kids program is providing a variety of **HANDS ON** learning experiences and helping youth apply those experiences to their own lives using *EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PRACTICES*. As leaders, we encourage the group members to share what they are doing to help them process the information they are getting in the activity. Then, we help them apply information, knowledge or skill to what they already know. (DO the activity, REFLECT on what they did, and APPLY it in an area of their lives.) Clover Kids leaders should try to incorporate different types of activities from crafts and art exploration experiences, to science experiments, to music and cooperative games.

Social skills and working with others are important parts of the Clover Kids program. It is important that each Clover Kid feel like an important part of the group, so Clover Kids work cooperatively together rather than competing. Competition is not appropriate for children third grade and younger and this includes the games played by the group. Games in which someone "gets out" or a definite winner and loser is chosen should be avoided.

Clover Kids relies heavily on volunteers. Volunteers must comply with all aspects of Iowa State University's Child Protection and Safety Policy and Iowa State University's mandate to be non-discriminatory. Volunteers have included senior citizens, retired and current educators, senior age 4-H community club members and leaders, college students, neighborhood moms and dads, child care personnel, and others interested in working with children.

Clover Kids website: <http://extension.iastate.edu/4h/clover>

