Babysitter Training Course Prepares Youth for Childcare Jobs

Dickinson County Extension continues to offer youth programming through hands-on learning experiences in a variety of topics and settings.

The Babysitter Training Course aims to teach middle schoolers the basics of childcare as well as the dos and don’ts of babysitting. Over twenty area youth were trained in the last session of this course. As a result of its success, the program will be offered again in the spring and summer for even more youth to become confident, capable childcare providers in our communities. The course focused on four main components of childcare: leadership, basic care, safety, and first aid.

Leadership. Participants learned how skills such as respect, communication, motivation, taking action, role modeling, and decision making can be key to a babysitter’s success.

Basic Care. From feeding and diaper duty to bedtime, this course covered the basics of caring for young children, toddlers, and infants. Topics in childhood development were also addressed to help the participants understand the various needs and abilities of children in their care.

Safety. A babysitter’s most important job is to keep the child safe while the parents are away. Youth were engaged in a Hazard Hunt to identify household objects that could be dangerous to young children.

First Aid. From bumps and bruises to burns, youth were taught how to access and react to a variety of common accidents that may occur with young children at play.

“I learned that you need to be a good leader to keep kids safe.”

“What I liked best was...the hands-on activities”