



Evaluation in 4-H Home Improvement

Home Improvement Project/Program Objectives

The Home Improvement objectives are to help 4-H'ers:

1. Learn to observe and enjoy beauty in surroundings, both in nature and through man-made objects.
2. Learn what the elements of design and principles of art are and be able to apply them in the work done in Home Improvement.
3. Learn about family members, their hopes and needs, as a guide when developing home improvement plans.
4. Learn how to select, arrange and construct furnishings for the home using the elements of design and principles of art as a guide.
5. Learn how to maintain an orderly, clean home.
6. Learn how to use the decision making process through application in the home improvement work.

Trends and Emphasis in the Home Improvement Program

1. Continued emphasis on application of art principles and design elements to what is done (selected, arranged, collected, made) in the program.
2. Continued emphasis on selection and arrangement of furnishings as well as "making" items.
3. Emphasis on those design elements and art principles that are used in today's decorating trends; things from the past and influences from other countries; and unique man-made features in Iowa.
4. Continued emphasis on diversity in the home improvement program to meet the wide range of individual interests and needs.
5. Continued emphasis on progression in learning experiences by each member, rather than confining all members of one age to the same project expectations.
6. Continued emphasis on identification of home improvement goals by the member, related to the individual and family needs and interests.
7. More emphasis on evaluations throughout the 4-H year rather than just at local or county show time.
8. More emphasis on recognition of the place of the exhibit in the project. The exhibit emerges from the 4-H'ers goals identified at the beginning of the 4-H year. The exhibit is the result of need and interest by the 4-H'er and the family, rather than a selection because it is on the fair list.
9. More emphasis on recognition that all items made, selected, or done by the 4-H'er need not be exhibited.

Special Evaluation Considerations

Each of the three (4-H'er, exhibit, evaluation) are important parts in the evaluation process in 4-H Home Improvement.

The development of the 4-H'er is the desired end product. Some ideas to think about include:

- How does the evaluation of work done in Home Improvement, including exhibits, contribute to the development of the 4-H'er?
- Is the subject matter in the Home Improvement program used as the basis for evaluation criteria?
- Is the age level of the 4-H'er considered when exhibits are evaluated? Are the expectations for "quality" and "degree of perfection" of workmanship realistic?
- Is each exhibit in a class evaluated on its own merit?

The Judge

The judge is another important factor in the evaluation process. That person needs to know:

- The objectives, trends, emphasis, concepts of the program.
- The relationship of the exhibits to the objectives of the project.
- The criteria, standards and subject matter in Home Improvement as a base for evaluation of exhibits.
- Appropriate methods for judging each exhibit category.
- How to use judging and evaluation as an effective educational vehicle.

Resources

Home Improvement Project webpage:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/homeimprovement.htm>

Design Decisions website: <http://4h.unl.edu/designdecisions/>

Outstanding additional informative links within this site.

The following are available from each county Extension office or can be ordered online at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/>.

4H 491, Design Decisions (2009)

4H 492, Pulling It Together: Elements and Principles of Design in Home Improvement (2009)

4H 633, Color Wheel

4H 634, Design: Exploring the Elements and Principles, PDF,

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/4H634.pdf>

Additional Resources

The Encyclopedia of Furniture by Joseph Aronson, Crown Publishers, ISBN0-517-03735-1

How to Clean Everything by Alma Chestnut Moore

Fastest, Cheapest and Best Way to Clean Everything by the Editors of Consumer Guide