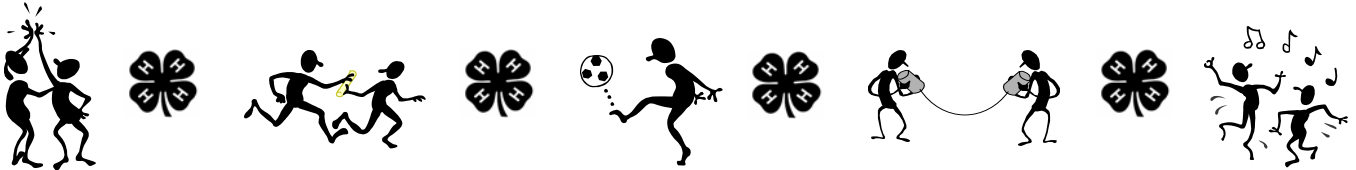




Ohio 4-H Cloverbud Connections



Fall 2006 Issue

For 4-H Cloverbud Volunteers working with grades K-2

Putting the Experiential Learning Model into Practice

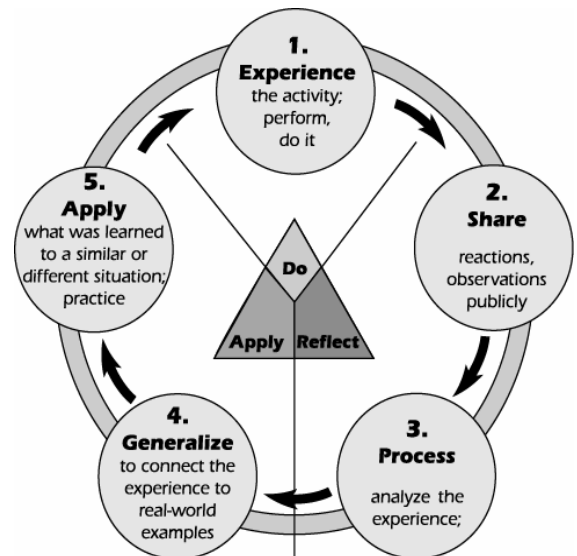
Did you know the 4-H Cloverbud curriculum was designed following the experiential learning model for planning and conducting activities? The experiential learning model is a proven method for promoting life skills through a process that goes beyond just doing an activity. Even though the 4-H Cloverbud curriculum is in an experiential learning format, by knowing a little bit about how the model works, you will do even more in promoting learning and life skills for the participating children.

Dr. Robert Horton, state 4-H curriculum specialist, has provided some helpful guidance for conducting activities in an experiential learning framework.

He recommends that as you conduct the activities with the children look for ways the members can share, process, generalize, and apply (beyond 4-H) the activity/learning that is taking place. For example:

- Sharing – Provide opportunity for members to respond to the activity by sharing reactions and observations.
- Processing – Help members to process the activity by discussing, analyzing, and relating the activity to the targeted life skills.
- Generalizing – Encourage members to make connections between the activity and their own personal life experiences.
- Applying – Have children think about how the activity and skills learned can be applied to other parts of their lives at home, school, or their neighborhood.

Check out the model to your right for a graphic image of the experiential learning model.



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Everybody Cooperates...Everybody Wins...and Nobody Loses

Have you ever seen the fun torn from a child's game? Have you ever seen children left out or put out by games, rejected, intentionally hurt, and wondered why? Remember choosing teams in physical education class in school? If you were physically skilled, you were invariably chosen first, but if you were not as physically skilled, you could bet on being chosen last. What a terrible feeling. Competitive-type games often result in isolating some players in favor of creating stars.

Children should play games that give them confidence and a feeling of worth, not a sense of rejection because they are not as athletically adept as others. Children learn through play. When we think of teams, we usually think of sports. But a team can be any group that works or plays together. Team members cooperate to get the job done. That's called teamwork.



The philosophy of the Cloverbud program is to provide social interactions in which children participate and play together rather than against one another, just for the fun of it. When children play with one another rather than against one another . . . everybody cooperates . . . everybody wins . . . and nobody loses. Through this kind of social interaction, they learn teamwork, trust, and group unity. The emphasis is on total participation, spontaneity, sharing the joy of play, acceptance of all players, and recognizing that every player is important. *Teamwork* by Ann Morris (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, New York, 1999), is an excellent book to read to children at a 4-H Cloverbud meeting. It emphasizes the importance of teamwork and helps young children understand the idea of teamwork as it gives them a glimpse into a rich variety of

world cultures.

Some non-competitive games/activities you can do to teach teamwork in your club are . . . *Birthday Lineup*, *Frozen Bean Bags*, and *Knots*.

Birthday Lineup - All ages

Have 4-H'ers line up by birthday, with January birthdays first and December birthdays last - or vice versa.

Frozen Bean Bags - Kindergarten and up

All the players balance a bean bag on their heads and move around the room/play area. If the bean bag falls off, the player is frozen and cannot move. To be defrosted, another player must pick up the fallen bean bag and place it back on top of the player's head, while keeping the bean bag on his or her own head. If it falls off while the player is attempting to help a friend, the helpful player is frozen and the player he or she is trying to help remains frozen.

Knots - Kindergarten and up

Here's an activity that really ties people together. At least five players stand in a small circle and place their right hands out in front of them, thumbs up. With the left hand, each grabs someone else's thumb, but not that of anyone next to him or her. The object of this activity is to untangle this knot by stepping over, crawling under, or turning around, anything is permitted except letting go. If the players really get into a dead end situation, they can always apply "knot-aid" - allowing one player to let go and untangle, after which they all join hands again. But don't let them give up too easily; most knots can be untangled with a little patience and plenty of togetherness. Don't let two players grab one another's hands, or all that the two will do is stand around and get in the way as everyone else tries to untangle the knot.

Resources:

The following resources provide a variety of non-competitive games or social interactions to encourage teamwork among 4-H'ers.

Fluegelman, Andrew. *The New Games Book*. Garden City, N.Y.: Dolphin Books Doubleday, 1976.

Fluegelman, Andrew. *More New Games*. Garden City, N.Y.: Dolphin Books Doubleday, 1988.

Sobel, Jeffrey. *Everybody Wins 393 Non-competitive Games for Young Children*. Walker and Company, New York, 1983.

Rohnke, Karl. *The Bottomless Bag Again?* Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, 1994.

Rohnke, Karl. *Cowstails and Cobras*. Hamilton, Mass.: Project Adventure, 1977.

Cindy Shuster

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Click it, Print it, Do it!





www.cloverbudconnections.osu.edu

Are you looking for an activity to help your Cloverbuds learn about nutrition and the fall harvest? Check out the resources provided in the Click it, Print it, Do it activity. Instructions are included for a "Comparing Apples to Apples" activity that you can do at your next Cloverbud meeting.

Take Five for Cloverbud Activities



Planning Cloverbud meeting lessons takes research, time, and organization. You select the topic and activities, gather supplies, and organize it to fit your members and the meeting time frame. It sounds easy enough, but with Cloverbud members, you never know exactly what to expect. How many kids are going to show up? Will they be quiet or more energetic than usual? What is the backup plan if the lesson just doesn't work that day?

You know that the best of plans does not always work. Take Five activities can help you develop your backup plan for those times. The activities need to be simple, quick, and use little or no equipment. You select and customize activity ideas to fit the interests and abilities of your members. Then you organize those ideas and resources so they are available for any situation.

Finding activity ideas is the easy part of your Take Five plan. You can find ideas through books, TV shows, internet, schools, Extension Offices, personal experiences, parents and advisors, magazines, Cloverbud lessons, workshops, stores and catalogs.

Organizing your ideas takes a little more time. Select and customize your Take Five activities by focusing on the unique characteristics of your group. Questions to consider are:

1. How many members are in your club? If you have several members, quick activities will take longer to organize and conduct. If you have a small group, avoid activities that require a larger number of participants.
2. How long are your meetings? If the Cloverbud meeting needs to be the same length as the traditional member meeting, you may need more games for flexibility.
3. Where do you meet? Are you usually indoors or outdoors? Do you have limited or lots of space for games and relays? Are tables available? Are messy activities allowed? Can the kids be loud without interrupting other meetings? Do you meet in the same or different facilities?
4. What do your members like to do? Do they like activities related to drawing, coloring, sports, or games? Do they enjoy singing, puppets, books, or any activity that uses a ball?
5. How much help do you have at meetings? Can someone help set up activities or do you have to do it all?

As you begin to select activities, you need to have a system to organize your ideas and resources. One easy method is to record ideas in a Take Five Activity Notebook and store needed supplies in a portable Cloverbud activity box. Any kind of portable sturdy notebook and box will work. Include only ideas and supplies you want to use. Make it large enough so you can continue to add new ideas and supplies. Take it with you to every meeting. Some basic supplies you may want to consider are: different kinds of paper, different kinds of writing utensils, scissors, glue sticks, paper plates, pipe cleaners, clothes pins, plastic table cover, bean bags, nerf balls, inflatable beach ball, bubbles, play dough, stickers, and balloons. Customize your supplies to match your activities. Here are a few activity ideas to get you started.

Pipe Cleaner Creations

Materials: 2 pipe cleaners per person

Procedure: Give each child 2 pipe cleaners & tell them they can work together in groups of 2, 3, or 4 people, or stay alone. They can make anything they want to, working with their pipe cleaners or combining pipe cleaners.

Face Pictures

Each person should write his/her name on a paper and turn it over. Tell them to make a large circle on the paper and pass the paper to the left. Make a nose and pass the paper to the left. Make a mouth and pass it. Make 2 eyes and pass it. Make hair and pass it. Make 2 ears and give it back to the person whose name is on the back.



Clothes Pin Throw

Materials: Clothes pins and a target, such as rope or wastebasket.

Variation: Use a variety of materials, such as bean bags, ping pong balls, wadded paper, etc. to compare differences.

Procedure: Make a target, such as a laid-out piece of rope or a wastebasket and have the children throw the clothes pins to the target.

Have fun building your Take Five activity notebook and box. Whether you use the activities to supplement lessons, provide transitions, serve as emergency backup, or just for fun, you can relax knowing you are a little more prepared to make the best better for Cloverbud members.

Carolyn Wilson
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Campus Connections

Hello again! It feels good to make another 4-H Cloverbud Connection with you!

Without music, life is a journey through a desert. ~ Pat Conroy

Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life. ~ Red Auerbach

If you can walk you can dance. If you can talk you can sing. ~ Zimbabwe Proverb

As you have guessed by now this *Campus Connection* is about music and the how it benefits children's healthy development. I do not consider myself the best singer or dancer, but I love music and have discovered that it is a great tool for enhancing life skills with Cloverbud-aged children.

- ♪ Physical development improves through moving, dancing, and playing instruments.
- ♪ Social development improves through positive, cooperative interactions between children as they sing and or dance together.
- ♪ Mental development improves by keeping a beat, rhythm, reading musical notes, and lyrics.
- ♪ Emotional development improves through the children's feelings of satisfaction, confidence and having fun through music.

Most adults would agree that music - whether songs, processions, hymns, or dance, is a powerful link to our emotions and memories. The same is true for children. Let's use the power of music with our Cloverbud program to "Make the Best Better."

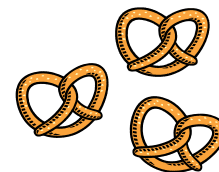
Thanks for all you do as a 4-H Cloverbud volunteer to improve the lives of children throughout Ohio!!

Scott D. Scheer, Ph.D.
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4-H Youth Development, The Ohio State University

Chocolate Pretzels

Ingredients

- 1 bag mini pretzels
- 1 package chocolate candy kisses
- 1 package M&M's



Cover a baking sheet with mini pretzels. Place a chocolate kiss on the center of each pretzel. Bake in a 250 degree oven for 2-3 minutes until the chocolate is softened. Remove the baking sheet from the oven. Immediately place an M&M on top of the chocolate kiss and push down to spread the softened chocolate. Refrigerate for 5-10 minutes or until the chocolate is firm. Serve immediately or store in an airtight container.

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