

Ohio's Cloverbud Program



Horse Curriculum Instructional Materials

Ohio's 4-H Cloverbud Horse Curriculum

This material is part of Ohio's 4-H Cloverbud program designed to meet the developmentally-appropriate needs of children age 5 and in kindergarten until age 8 and in third grade. 4-H Cloverbuds emphasizes overall well-being by empowering young children with successful learning and positive social interaction through cooperative learning in non-competitive environments.

The following individuals have given leadership to the development of this 4-H Cloverbud horse material.

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Please note on each activity the specific writers for that curriculum piece.

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Making Sense of Horse Senses and Language

Objectives:

- * To develop social skills and facilitate cooperation.
- * To enhance self-esteem.
- * To promote self understanding and learning skills.
- * To develop physical skills.
- * To develop decision-making skills.
- * To learn how horses communicate with humans.
- * To learn the different ways horses communicate with each other.
- * To learn the five senses of the horse.
- * To learn how the horse reacts when senses are stimulated.

Group Size: 6 to 8 children per adult or youth volunteer.

Time Frame: This lesson is designed for a 30 to 60 minute gathering.

Background: Help children become aware of the horse senses and how horses communicate. Share these activities to promote a better understanding of how horses sense, communicate, and respond to the environment around them. Help children to identify when horses are happy and when they may be in danger.

Life Skill Areas:

- * Self understanding and learning skills will be developed through exploration of the senses.
- * By pairing children to cooperatively accomplish activities social-interaction skills will be developed.
- * Decision-making skills will be fostered through selection and sorting exercises.
- * Gross motor skills will be nurtured through imitation of horse behavior, while fine muscle coordination will be developed through cutting and coloring.

Helps To The Volunteer:

Try these suggestions:

- * Choose one or two of the following activities from each section.
- * Try to create appropriate atmosphere by decorating the room with posters and props, using costumes related to the activity, pre-meeting preparation by the 4-H members, thinking about special seating arrangements, and playing background music.

Learning Activities:

I. GETTING STARTED...

Activity: "What Are Senses in People - in Horses?" (5 - 7 minutes)

Grade Level: K - 2

Materials: A sample of Life cereal for each child A slice of apple
A horse model, or picture of a horse (Refer to Horseless Horse book)

Distribute a slice of apple to each child. Ask the children to identify the object. Ask them how they know that it is an apple. Have them look, smell, and taste the apple slice. "How does a horse decide whether or not to eat something?" Explain that the horse primarily relies on it's sense of smell, but also uses sight, and taste when deciding if an object is edible. Have the children eat the apple slice. "Do your hands smell like apples?" "What do you think would happen if a horse smelled your hand right now?" Explain that the horse might bite their fingers because they smell like apples. Distribute the cereal. Ask the children what they see on and in the cereal?" Have the children taste the cereal. "What does the sugar do to the taste?" "Do horses like to eat sweet things?" "What is mixed into grain to make it taste sweet?" Explain that molasses is mixed into grain to make it sweet to taste better. Explain that our senses enable us to identify and learn things. Ask the children which senses a horse will use when eating. "What are the other two senses a horse has?" On a picture or model have the children identify the horse's five sense organs.

Application:

~ Have children tell all the things a horse does not eat.

Activity: "What's Communication?" (2 - 3 minutes)

Grade Level: K - 2

Materials: Pictures of horses expressing various emotions (one set for every two children)
(See attached handouts from Horseless Horse book)

Gather the children into a circle and tell them you would like to find out how they communicate without words. Once the children are in the circle, no one can talk. Ask the children to answer the following questions by sound or body movement. Be sure to recognize each child for their participation.

How do you let someone know when you are scared?
How do you let someone know you're glad to see them?
How do you tell some one you want to be left alone?
How do you let someone know when you are angry?

Application:

~ Pair up the children. Distribute cards depicting various emotions. Ask the children to select the horse exhibiting a certain emotion.