

# Ohio 4-H Cloverbud Connections

For 4-H Cloverbud Volunteers  
Working with Kindergarten to Second Grade

July – September 2017 Issue

## The Joy and Wonder of Reading

*By Kathy Blackford, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development/CED, Ashland County (OSU Extension)*

Did you have a favorite book as a child? Was there a special story that you loved having a parent or babysitter read to you, over, and over again? My favorite was “The Color Kittens” by Margaret Wise Brown. I could recite the book by heart but I never tired of hearing my mom read it aloud to me. I remember too, more recently, reading to my own daughters when they were young. Why did we stop? Early elementary school brought homework, and soccer practices, and lots of other things that seemed to get in the way of that simple, special reading time.



The Cloverbud Program is a great place to slow down a bit and focus on something that may be overlooked in today's hustle and bustle world – the joy and wonder of reading a good book! In *The Big Book of 4-H Cloverbud Activities*, many lessons have a reading list printed at the end to encourage further learning or to set the stage for the activities.

These are some other ways to incorporate the love of books and reading into your Cloverbud meetings:

- Grab a few pillows and blankets to make a reading area at your meeting. Kids can read on their own or this makes a great place for an adult to read aloud to the group.
- Have a meeting where everyone brings their favorite book. Each child can tell about the book and why it is a favorite. After everyone has a turn, the leader can read the books to all the members (or, if the child is able and willing, he or she can read the book to the others). Make sure to show all the pictures to the listeners!
- Tell the kids that the group will collect gently used children's books and donate them to a homeless shelter, youth program or some other group that can use them. Have kids see if they have any to donate for this service project.
- Have a book exchange. Everyone brings in a gently used book they have read and would like to give away in return for a book that is new to them. There are lots of ways your group could do this – wrap and number the books and then have kids draw a number to select their new book, have a scavenger hunt in your meeting space after the leader hides the books, etc.
- Write your own book. Everyone writes (or draws pictures) on sheets of cardstock which are then stapled together with the author's name on the front. Maybe your whole group could work together to make up one story and then illustrate it.



Happy reading!

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## 4-H Cloverbud Clubs Q and A

*By Joyce Shriner, Extension Educator  
4-H Youth Development/CED, Hocking County  
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### How do I involve parents?

Parents are an important part of the 4-H program. Most are interested in their child's 4-H activities and experiences and are willing to help when asked. During the program planning process, make a list of tasks that parents could perform. Examples include hosting a meeting in their home, donating craft supplies and/or refreshments, chaperoning a special tour, planning a community service project, making telephone calls, providing transportation, sharing a special skill, etc. Use your list to develop and distribute a parent sign-up sheet to recruit their help. It is also helpful to write a letter to parents soon after the club is organized. In the letter you can communicate what the 4-H group expects of members, the year's meeting dates, and your need for parent support.

### What special activities can be offered?

4-H Cloverbud members may go on special trips and get involved with community service projects. You may want to brainstorm several possibilities for club trips and let club members vote on where they would like to go. A community service project gives Cloverbuds an opportunity to work together for the benefit of the entire community. Again, you may want to think of several potential projects that are safe and appropriate for this age group and then let the members decide what they want to do. Examples include recycling pop cans and newspapers, sponsoring a canned food drive, planting flowers in a public area, etc.

Some counties offer Cloverbud camps and opportunities for Cloverbuds to exhibit at the county fair. Call your Extension office to find out what your county offers.

### Sources:

4-H Extension Fact Sheets: Effective 4-H Club Meetings 4-H-006-99; 4-H Cloverbuds 4-H-010-99; Community Service 4-H-012-99; and Involving Parents 4-H-013-99.



Looking for a lesson or activity for your next meeting? Check out the most recent Click It, Print It, Do It activity for your Cloverbuds.

## Campus Connections

*By Scott D. Scheer, Ph.D., State Extension Specialist  
4-H Youth Development (The Ohio State University)*

Hello again! Great to make this 4-H Cloverbud Connection with you.



Have you noticed the section titled "Reading Adventures" at the end of the curriculum pieces in the *Big Book of 4-H Cloverbud Activities*? There are children's books in fiction and nonfiction categories to use along with that curriculum piece.

For example, in the "Ant Antics" curriculum piece there a number of books recommended such as "One Hundred Hungry Ants" and "Two Bad Ants". Cloverbud kids enjoy hearing and reading stories, but beyond that are so many benefits of reading with children. These benefits include language mastery, academic achievement, speech skills, logical thinking, better communication, and improved concentration. Wow! How great it is that something as much fun of reading with children can have so many benefits. Please consider supplementing your Cloverbud activities with story time. Many of these books can be found at your local library or you can use your own books that fit the subject matter.

Thanks for your commitment to the 4-H Cloverbud program as we enhance the healthy development of children throughout the state!

Scott D. Scheer, Ph.D.



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