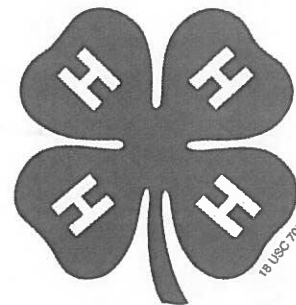


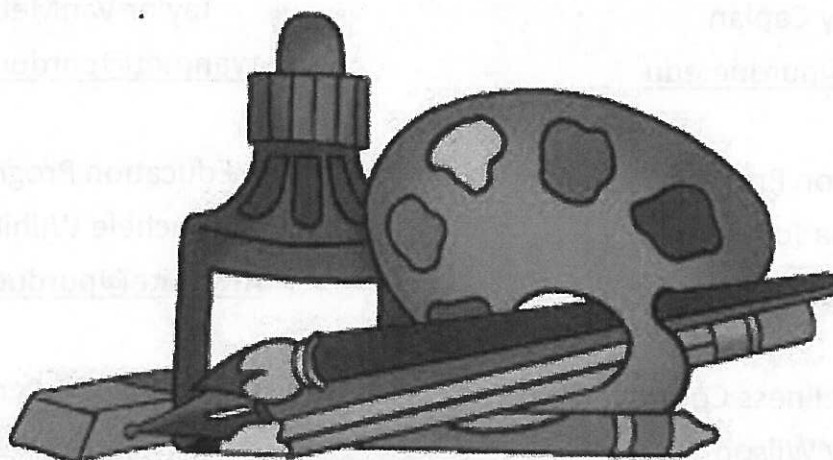
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Mini 4-H

ARTS & CRAFTS



An Introduction to 4-H for Youth in Grades K, 1 & 2

Developed by Purdue Extension— Elkhart County

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Revised September 2014

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OUR STAFF

Mini 4-H Helper's Page



Welcome to the Mini 4-H Program! Mini 4-H is designed for children in grades K-2 to explore a variety of project activity areas and to interact with caring adults and other children.

Children receive this project activity manual when they enroll in Mini 4-H. This manual, and the manuals on various other topics, will provide fun, age-appropriate learning activities throughout their year(s) in Mini 4-H.

As a Mini 4-H adult helper, your job will be to guide and encourage each child through the activities. A wide range of activities is provided to allow you to choose the ones most appropriate for the children you are working with. It is strongly suggested that you do not complete the activities for them. Instead, help them, guide them, work with them, and let them do all that they possibly can. 4-H believes in allowing children to learn by doing. The Mini 4-H project activities are hands-on learning opportunities designed to provide a meaningful educational experience for youth.

Additionally, the Mini 4-H program is set up to allow children to display a project activity that is based upon information in this manual. Some children may want to exhibit at the fair. The fair is an exciting week that allows community youth to showcase their enthusiasm for learning. Children may choose to display a project activity they did themselves or one they did with a group. Other children may choose to showcase their work in other ways, such as displaying it in a special place in their home.

Mini 4-H is fun! Children will certainly enjoy it! You can have fun too, by guiding and helping as children participate in the program. Encourage and praise the children as they have fun learning and sharing with you. If you have any questions regarding Mini 4-H or other 4-H programs, please contact the Extension Office in your county.

Helper's Tips

The Mini 4-H program can be used with individual children, but it works best when used in a group of 2 or more children. Children working cooperatively in groups develop positive images of themselves and their ideas. Other ways adult helpers can maximize the benefits of Mini 4-H are to:

- **Work on a subject interesting to the child by encouraging children to choose the content area.** Look through this manual and choose the project activities based on the interests and skill levels of the children.
- **Relax and have fun.** Some children will want to finish their activities, others may not. There is no need to pressure children of this age to finish an activity, because the real learning takes place while they participate in the activity and interact with others. The finished product should not be the main focus. The knowledge children gain while they explore new areas and experiment with new ideas should be the primary goal.
- **Remain flexible and adapt to the changing needs of the children.** Restlessness or boredom may indicate a need to stop the activity and come back to it later.
- **Encourage the children to talk and work with each other.** Children learn best when they are encouraged to freely share their reactions and observations. You may want to ask the children about what they did during an activity, what happened, what was the most difficult, what was the easiest, and what they liked the most.

This manual contains activities for children that allow for a wide range of abilities and provide practice for developing a variety of skills.

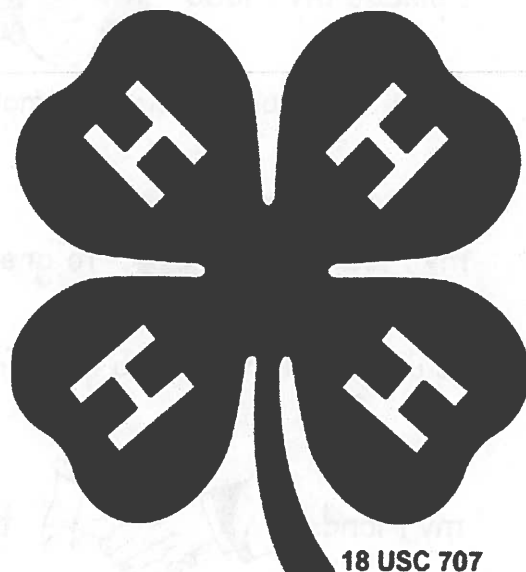
Mini 4-H'ers Page

Mini 4-H'ers have lots of fun! There are many activities for you to explore. You can try new things. You can share them with your friends and family.

Here are some things to know about 4-H:

The 4-H symbol is a four-leaf clover with an "H" in each leaf. Clover is plant that grows in fields, yards, and along road-sides. Most clovers have three leaves. Sometimes, if you look very carefully, you may get lucky and find a special clover with four leaves. A four-leaf clover is used as the symbol for 4-H to let everyone know 4-H is a special kind of group.

The 4-H colors are green and white. The four-leaf clover is green and the "H" in each leaf is white.



A group motto is a saying that tells people what is important to the group. **The 4-H motto** is "To make the best better." When something is better than all of the others, it is the best. Think about a time when you did your best. Maybe you threw a ball farther than you have ever thrown it before. Now, think about some ways you could do better. You may be able to throw farther by practicing for a while or by watching someone who can throw farther than you to see how they throw so far. Even if you throw the ball farther than you have ever thrown it before, there are still ways that you can do better the next time. 4-H encourages you to always try to do better, even if you are doing the best you have ever done.

The 4-H Pledge

A pledge is a promise you make to yourself and to the people around you. The 4-H pledge is in bold print below. Under each line of the pledge there are words telling what the pledge means.

I pledge my **Head**  to clearer thinking,

I promise to use my head to make good choices.

my **Heart**  to greater loyalty,

to use my heart to be a good friend.

my **Hands**  to larger service, and

to use my hands to do helpful things for others.

my **Health**  to better living,

to take care of my body and to show others how to live in a healthy way.

for my club, my community,  my country, and my world.

to help my group, my community, my country, and my world be happy and safe for everyone.



What is Art?

Most everyone enjoys using their creativity to make something. Doing an art project is fun for many reasons.

- 1- The *fun* you have in learning a new project.
- 2- The *fun* of showing others your completed project
- 3- The *fun* of choosing it yourself.
- 4- The *fun* of exploring and feeling new textures & art forms.

Almost anything can be an arts & crafts project for Mini 4-H. This manual will give you some ideas to try. The ideas here are just a starting point, you are not limited to these ideas but whatever you choose it must fit and be mounted on an 11 X 14 inch poster for hanging at the fair.

When you are old enough for traditional 4-H, in the third grade, arts & crafts are divided into many categories. Be sure to read the requirements for each category that you are planning to enter to prepare your project exhibit correctly.

Use Your Imagination! Have Fun!

Activity 1- HANDY HINTS

As you work on your projects for *Mini 4-H* remember to follow these helpful hints.

Materials needed for this activity: None

What you will do: Have an adult read and explain these hints to you.





Handy Hints

- 1- Get help when you need it.
Everyone needs help sometimes. Don't be afraid to ask for help!
- 2- Get all the supplies together before you start.
There is nothing more frustrating than getting half finished with a project and not being able to finish because you don't have all the supplies you need.
- 3- Keep your area neat and clean. Clean up spills quickly.
This is not always easy, but makes clean-up go much quicker. It is also easier to work in a clean area.
- 4- Look over the finished project after it has dried to be sure it is neat, clean and your very best work.
Take the time to do your very best work and add those finishing touches.
- 5- Ask the opinion of others so you may improve your work.
Sometimes asking someone who has tried the same activity can help you avoid mistakes or solve problems.
- 6- Mini 4-H Arts & Crafts projects have size limits and must be mounted on an 11" x 14" poster for display. Keep this in mind when choosing your fair project.
All 4-H projects have detailed instructions for what to exhibit. Read these rules before starting your fair exhibit to avoid errors.

What did you learn?

What do you need to do before starting a project? _____

Who do you ask for help? _____

Why is it important to work in a clean space? _____



Activity 2-GEOMETRIC DESIGNS

Materials needed for this activity:

6" x 9" or 8" x 10" white or colored paper
Watercolor paints and a brush

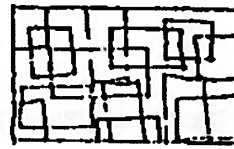
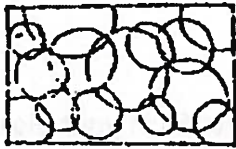
black crayon or marker
paper towels

What you will do:

- 1- Select a simple geometric shape, such as a square, circle or triangle. Using a black crayon or marker, draw that shape on the paper. Repeat it all over the paper in different sizes. Press heavy so lines are thick and dark.
- 2- Using watercolors, paint the shapes. Try to use many colors.
- 3- When completed. Let your picture dry thoroughly. Mount on construction paper in a color that compliments your painting.

Variation:

- 1- Cut different shapes from colored paper and glue onto the white paper in a pattern.
- 2- You may take different shapes that make a picture.



What did you learn?

What shape did you choose? _____

Why? _____

What colors did you use in your picture? _____



Activity 3-TEXTURE SEED PICTURE

Materials needed for this activity:

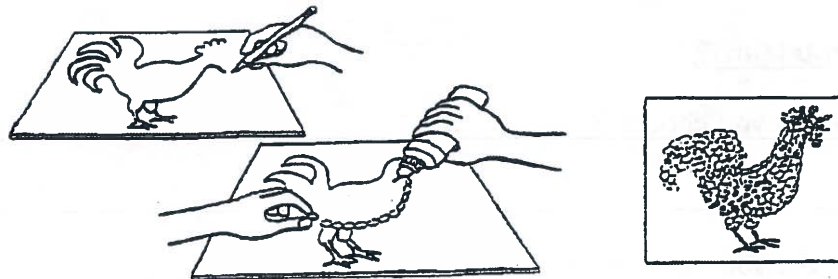
Heavy board or cardboard- no larger than 11" X 14" Pencil or marker
White glue in a squeeze bottle Seeds or dried beans

What you will do:

- 1- Trace or draw a simple picture on the heavy board. *Coloring books are a good place to find pictures.*
- 2- Squeeze glue around the outline of the picture.
- 3- Glue different seeds or dried beans on the outline of the picture.
- 4- Glue on different kinds of seeds or dried beans to the inside of the picture.
- 5- Add extras, such as yarn, feathers or beads.
- 6- You may want to seal the top of the seeds and dried beans with a clear coating of glue or mod podge.
- 7- Be sure your picture is dry before moving it.
- 8- You may want to put a picture hanger on the back so your picture can be hung on the wall.

Variation:

- 1- Use small pieces of tissue paper instead of seeds to fill in your picture.



What did you learn?

How long did it take you to finish your picture? _____

What kind of seeds or dried beans did you use? _____

Where did you hang your picture? _____



Activity 4- MOD PODGE

Mod Podge is a water based sealer, glue and finish for all surfaces. It comes in two finishes, matte and glossy and is available in most craft stores. It is simple to use.

Materials needed for this activity:

Mod Podge

newspapers

Wooden plaque 5" x 7" or smaller

small brush (sponge)

Picture of your choice (old greeting cards work well)

paint or stain (optional)

What you will do:

- 1- Cover your work area with old newspapers.
- 2- If you are planning to paint or stain your plaque, do this first and let it dry.
- 3- Cut your picture to the proper size.
- 4- Apply a thin coat of Mod Podge with a brush to the entire surface of your plaque. Let it dry about 15 minutes.
- 5- Add another thin coat of Mod Podge to your plaque and place the picture on the plaque.
- 6- Smooth out air bubbles with your fingers. Work from the middle of the picture to the outside.
- 7- Add a thin coat of Mod Podge over the plaque and the picture. You may add additional coats until you get the look you want. Always let the plaque dry at least 15 minutes between coats.
- 8- You may cover the back of the plaque with Mod Podge if you want, after the front is completely dry. It will stick to the newspaper if you do it all at once.
- 9- Be sure to wash out the brush when you are finished.

Hint: Your plaque will look white at first but will be clear when it is dry.

What did you learn?

1- What kind of picture did you choose? _____

2- How did your picture look when you were finished? _____

3- How long did it take you to finish your picture? _____



Activity 5- COLLAGE

A *collage* is a form of art where different materials, such as paper, cloth, flowers etc. are pasted together on a surface to make a pleasing display.

Materials needed for this activity:

White paper (no larger than 11" X 14" (if using heavy items, use cardboard) N

Scissors

Colored tissue paper or construction paper

Glue

Extras (flowers, beads, seeds, yarn, ribbon-Use your imagination)

What you will do:

1- Choose a simple picture. Draw or trace it onto the white paper. *Coloring books are a good place to find simple pictures.* You may decide to just use a random pattern without a picture.

2- Glue tiny pieces on the paper onto your design to make a picture.

3- You may add extras to make the picture special. *Be sure to use a cardboard backing if you are adding heavy items.*

4- Let your picture dry before moving it.

What did you learn?

What is your picture? _____

What did you use to make your collage? _____

How long did it take to make your picture? _____

Did you enjoy making a collage? _____



Activity 5– OTHER IDEAS

Have you ever made jewelry, a special knick-knack or a picture frame? Do you like to draw or paint? These are all things that are arts and crafts. There are many other things you can make in creating arts and crafts. For more ideas, as a friend, visit the library, check on the internet or use your imagination!

More ideas to try!

Drawing, painting, Finger Painting, Watercolors, etc.

Try different materials or techniques!

You are only limited by your imagination!

What to Exhibit

Arts & Crafts

Here is a list of projects that can be shown at the Fair. Pick *one* of the projects you would like to exhibit at the fair. You do not need to make the projects in special order. If you have any questions about your projects, contact your leader or the Extension Office. There are people there who can help you.

1. Make an Arts & Crafts poster displaying your creativity. Your poster should be 22”L x 14”H .
2. You may exhibit one arts & crafts project of your choice. Projects may be three dimensional. Your project does not have to be placed on a poster board.

For more information on how to label your project, when to enter it in the Fair, and where the project needs to go, please contact your County Extension Office.

