

Increasing Learning & Motivating Youth Through Creative Play

Southern Region 4-H Leader Forum

October 1-4, 2009

1. Get Acquainted and Ice Breakers

a. Actions

Reflection: How did you feel doing this?
Did seeing others do this make it easier?
Has your feeling about this group changed? How?

Application: When would this activity be useful?
How could you use this activity in the club or group you work with?

b. Index Card Get Acquainted

Questions: Your name
City and state
Volunteer role(s) and years as a volunteer
What you like most about 4-H.
Favorite pastime, other than eating and sleeping

Reflection: How did you feel when introducing your new friend?
Was this easier or harder to do than introducing yourself? How?
Has your feeling about this group changed? How?

Application: How could you use this activity in the club or group you work with?

Get acquainted & ice breaker reflection:

Has your opinion about using ice breakers and get acquainted activities changed? If so, how?

2. Making Learning Fun

What are the top two reasons kids join 4-H? Friends and Fun

a. What does this imply when we plan learning activities, club meetings, etc?

- Need friendly environment
- Need to do things together
- Cooperative rather than competitive activities
- Need to make sure activities and meetings are fun

Search Institute: creative learning and play activities tend to be the least common asset among youth

Empowerment: important asset builder – youth need to be active in creating their own individual and group learning activities.

Asset Building Practices: getting acquainted; sharing smiles with youth

Go to Youth Institute website

3. Learning Puzzles

Compete the Florida 4-H Word Search and the Picture Perfect Criss Cross puzzle.

Go to the Puzzlemaker website: let's create a puzzle specific to a 4-H project, a judging team program, or general 4-H.

Distribute the project books

Life Skills: reading, planning, language.....other?

Essential Elements: Mastery, Independence

4. Other Electronic Learning

a. You Tube and 4-H Network – go to these websites and surf with examples

How could you use YOU Tube for education and learning? (project demonstrations, officer training, starting a 4-H club, planning a service project etc.)

b. Americantowns.com how could you help kids use this site with your 4-Hers?

c. Calendars: doodle.com how could you help kids use this site with your 4-Hers?

d. Facebook: facebook.com/4h how could you help kids use this site with your 4-Hers?

5. Club Ceremonies

a. Essential Elements: Belonging; Assets – creative learning, building relationships, supportive environments

- Preparation:
- theme
 - o Symbol
 - o Script
 - o All involved
 - o Brief

6. **Colorful Conversations** 4-H related

- Blue: your favorite 4-H activity
Red: something you'd really like to do this year in 4-H
Orange: a service project you'd like to do
Green: A good idea to get more kids in our club
Yellow: a project you'd like help with this year
Application: how could you use this for club program planning?

7. **Exploring Diversity: Diversegories**

When would this be a good activity to use?

8. **4-H Trivia** could be about your club, a project, an event, county or state program, etc.
9. **Card Castles:** design, creativity, teamwork, team building
10. **Commercial Spots:** building assets – music and drama, self-expression, creativity
essential elements – mastery, independence
11. **Hieroglyphics:** language skills, creative thinking, team building
12. **The Whole Story:** self expression, problem solving
13. **The Tower:** team building, supportive relationships
14. **A Drop of Water:** science experiment, teachable moment, explore the seemingly impossible
15. **Just One Word:** creative thinking
16. **Closing:** Reflection
a. What were some teaching skills you gained today?
b. Has your thinking changed any regarding the role of creative play in learning?
c. Do you have other creative play ideas to share?
Apply
a. How do you think you can use this in your own volunteer role?
b. Any specific ways you might apply this?

17. **Evaluation:**

Group Evaluation

Individual Evaluation

Supplies and Equipment Needed

Computer and LCD projector and availability of internet for exploring the websites.

Poster or handout with Essential Elements and 40 Assets (from Search Institute)

The handouts and activities can be found at <http://my.ifas.ufl.edu/sites/services/4-H/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx> under Increasing Learning & Motivating Youth Through Creative Play

- 1a. Actions Sheets and stick on numbers (sequence of numbers 1-.... based on number participants)
- 1b. Index Cards
3. Learning Puzzles: Sample criss cross puzzle and word search puzzle and answer sheets.
5. Club Ceremonies: Paper
6. Colorful Conversations: color worksheet
7. Exploring Diversity: Diversegories Game Card
8. 4-H Trivia: 4-H Trivia instruction sheet
9. Card Castles: 50 index cards per group
10. Commercial Spots: grab bag of miscellaneous items
11. Hieroglyphics: Hieroglyphic sheet and answer sheet
12. The Whole Story: story cut into enough sections for each participant; option – divide into smaller groups and provide a story for each group
13. The Tower: 100-150 paper or plastic cups per group
14. A Drop of Water: one penny, one eye dropper and one cup of water per group
15. Just One Word: The letters J U S T O N E W O R D on separate squares; one set per group
17. Evaluation: Group evaluation form and individual evaluation form

Colorful Conversations

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Options: change the questions to fit your theme or workshop audience

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Diversegories Game Card

Shoe Size: what is the smallest size? Largest size? Number of different sizes?

Age: youngest? oldest?

Birthplace: number of different:

Towns?

States?

Countries?

World Traveler: Number of countries visited?
Traveled first class?

Number of states visited?
Traveled by train?

Birthdays: number of different: Years? Months? Days?

Technology Savvy: Number who have

Developed a web site?

Created a blog?

Surfed the Internet?

Written e-mail?

Have a Face Book page?

Twittered?

Dominant Handedness:

Left-handed?

Right-handed?

Ambidextrous?

Language Fluency: number who speak more than one language?

Outdoor Adventure: Number who have:

Hiked?

Biked?

Camped?

Canoed?

Been rappelling

Vacation: number who would like to visit the:

Beach?

Mountains?

Relatives?

Media Stars? Number who have appeared:

On radio?

On TV?

In the newspaper?

Heiroglyphics

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| A. GESG | B. <u>Traveling</u>
CCCCCC |
| C. 2 UM + 2 UM | D. EILN PU |
| E. HIJKLMNO | F. YOU/JUST/ME |
| G. RLD | H. Often, Often
Often, Not, Not |
| I. <u>T I M E</u>
abdefg | J. _____ it |
| K. KOOL KOOL CROSSING | L. bit MORE |
| M. ME NT | N. _____ |
| O. ISSUE X 10 | P. <u>THEHANGRE</u>
<i>more more more</i> |
| P. nafish nafish | R. <i>more more</i>
<u>more more more</u> |
| S. WOOD
BRIAN
OHIO | |
| T. SOM | U. 2THDK |
| V. <u>WIRE</u>
Just | W. BAN BAN |
| X. SSSSSSSSSSS | Y. SIGHT LOVE
SIGHT
SIGHT |
| Z. Wheather | |

THE WHOLE STORY

A little girl came home from a neighbor's house where her little friend had died. "Why did you go?" questioned her father. "To comfort her mother," said the child. "What were you able to do to comfort her?" "I climbed into her lap and cried with her."

A wise man said to, "I have been practicing medicine for 30 years, and I have prescribed many things. But in the long run, I learned that for most of what ails the human creature, the best medicine is love." What is it doesn't work?" I asked. **"Double the dose,"** he replied.

Bats, Bees, Butterflies

Every child should have mudpies, grasshoppers, waterbugs, tadpoles, frogs, acorns, chestnut trees to climb, streams to wade in, bats, bees, butterflies, various animals to pet, pine cones, rocks to roll, sand, snakes, and snails; and any child who has been deprived of these had been deprived of the best part of education.

Children may be small, but they have the same basic needs that you have. Children are learning all the time—observing and imitating. When you are with them you are teaching them. The way you look, the way you act, the way to talk and the things you say. You cannot say—now I’m teaching—and now I’m not.

“Molding”

I took a piece of clay
and idly fashioned it one day.
And as my fingers pressed it still
it moved and yielded at my will.
It came again, when days were past
that pot of clay was hard at last.
The form I gave it still it bore
and I could change that form no more.
I took a piece of living clay
and gently formed it day by day.
And molded with my power and art
a young child’s soft and yielding heart.
It came again when days were gone
he was a man I looked upon.
He still that early impress bore
and I could change it nevermore.

JUST ONE WORD

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W

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R

D

Hieroglyphics Answer Sheet

- A. Scrambled Eggs
- B. Traveling Overseas
- C. Forum
- D. Line Up in Alphabetical Order
- E. Water (H₂O)
- F. Just Between You and Me
- G. The End of 'The World'
- H. More Often Than Not
- I. Long Time No See
- J. Blanket
- K. Look Both Ways Before Crossing
- L. A Little Bit More
- M. Apartment
- N.
- O. Tennis Shoes
- P. Hang in There
- Q. Tunafish
- R. Room for one more
- S. Brian Underwood
Andover, Ohio
- T. The start of
'Something Big'
- U. Tooth Decay
- V. Just under the wire
- W. Banana Split
- X. Tennessee
- Y. Love at first sight
- Z. A bad spell of weather

Web Site Directory

www.florida4h.org	state 4-H website
www.solutionsforyourlife.com	IFAS web site
www.directory.ifas.ufl.edu	IFAS personnel directory (faculty and county maps)
www.aboutus.org/Nsopr.gov	National Sex Offender Registry
www.orientaltrading.com	party supplies, toys, etc.
www.search-institute.org	youth asset-building resources
www.floridastatefair.com	Florida State Fair
www.florida4h.org/about/state.shtml	directory of state 4-H websites
www.fourhcouncil.edu	National 4-H Council
www.4-h.org	National 4-H Technology web site
www.4-hmall.org	National 4-H Service – on line catalogue of 4-H supplies
www.national4-hheadquarters.gov	
www.n4hccs.org	National 4-H curriculum – project books
www.puzzlemaker.com	create all kinds of puzzles electronically
www.4-hdirectory.org	
www.kids.nationalgeographic.com	lots of youth activity ideas
www.youtube.com/user/4HNetworkNews	
www.training-wheels.com	subscribe to newsletter for latest in youth research
http://www.pbskids.org/zoom	lots of ways to involve your 4-H members

Group Evaluation Form

"Increasing Learning and Motivating Youth Through
Creative Play" Rock Eagle, Oct. 1-4, 2009

1. A leadership skill I gained or improved:
2. Something that I will use:
3. What I really liked about today's workshop:
4. A new way I learned to teach my 4-Hers:
5. Something I learned about how to make learning fun: