

# Grab & Go: Clover Kid Lessons



By Jane Esau

4-H Clover Kids can be one of the most rewarding experiences for youth as they learn more about themselves and their world. Middle childhood, ages 5-7, is an exciting time for children when memories are made and continued development occurs. Kids are maturing in many ways: physically, socially and emotionally, as they build new relationships, have fun learning and working together. They have boundless energy, want to belong and be accepted, while learning self-confidence. Clover Kids will enrich their learning and challenge their thinking.

4-H Clover Kids is age-appropriate, therefore it is fun, hands-on activity based, non-competitive, success oriented, and leader directed. A ratio of 5 Clover Kids per volunteer would create a good learning environment, with about 20 minute sessions. This is a great time for these pre-4-H members to learn the 4-H pledge to open their meetings; an easy grab and go clover activity is simply printing the pledge poster, many of them online include a picture of head, heart, hands and health, making it easier to learn and remember. Children could color their own pledge poster.

Grab & Go lessons will include goals of your lesson, materials you will need, learning activity, and resources. Materials may be as simple as items you have at home; ex: simple hand tools, snacks, art supplies, markers/colors, scissors, books, etc. For ease in presenting multiple lessons, just keep your kit assembled, adding supplies needed.

Nebraska identifies these project areas: Just Outside the Door, Aerospace, Family Celebrations Around the World, Animal Science, Making Food for Me, and A Space for Me. Curriculum may be purchased or available at your Extension Office for A Space for Me and Making Food for Me. Any project area can be developed into an educational, fun lesson.

State resources include the Clover Kids website: <http://4h.unl.edu/clover-kids>; Resources (<http://4h.unl.edu/clover-kid-resources>); Play & Activities (<http://child.unl.edu/cloverkid>).

Other resources are pre-school materials, books, internet, YouTube, Pinterest (search pre-school activities). University of Wisconsin-Extension published "4-H Cloverbud Activity Book A". Ohio State University curriculum includes "The Big Book of 4-H Cloverbud Activities" (4-H 710GPM). Minnesota Extension Service published "Cloverbuds". A helpful website is: [www.edhelper.com](http://www.edhelper.com). These are all packed with easy grab & go resources.

Community service is great for Clover Kids to learn and have fun. Simple ideas are aluminum tab collection, holiday or seasonal coloring pages or decorations to give to retirement centers, planting flowers for others; just add your own ideas.

Online Clover Kids enrollment website: [www.ne.4honline.com](http://www.ne.4honline.com). Adult volunteers must be screened through the 4-H program; contact your Extension Office. Remember, Clover Kids is non-competitive, cooperative learning in a positive environment. Fair exhibits can be an important part of their pre-4-H experiences. Praise the kids, recognize their success, talk and laugh with them. Clover Kids ... future 4-H members!

