



Activities and Recognition

Children need honest and substantive recognition to help them establish a positive self-concept. They want and need to know they are “okay”.

- Keep in mind how important you are to children this age. Find something positive to say to each child at each meeting.
- Reserve praise for a job well done, use encouragement when continuation of a task is wanted or when a task is poorly done. Encouragement helps the child feel worthwhile.
- Be accepting of all degrees of success. Be sure each child has something to feel good about. Always look for the positive in a situation before finding the negative.
- Share enthusiasm about group or individual achievements with the entire group.
- Provide realistic standards to live up to. Periodically review and, if necessary, change these standards.
- Thank children when they are cooperative and helpful.
- Ask specific members to help you with special tasks during the meeting.
- Model attitudes of respect and appreciation. Affirm differences and celebrate the unique qualities of every child.
- Search out opportunities to provide positive reinforcement of Clover Kids. Special participation ribbons, certificates, stickers and/or display areas at county fair can be used. There should be no formal scoring of Clover Kids' exhibits or any competition between individual members or groups. Any recognition must be given equally to all Clover Kids members.
- Restructure existing events or activities to be developmentally appropriate and non-competitive of this age group.
- Extension staff, leaders and parents should keep in mind the physical and mental development of this age group in regard to showing animals, Small pets in which a strong relationship between the child and animal has been established (rabbits, cats, hamsters, gerbils, etc.) would be appropriate for this age group.