



Developmental Characteristics of the 4-H Youth Audience

CHARACTERISTIC	CLOVERBUDS Grades 1-3	BEGINNERS Grades 4-6	INTERMEDIATES Grades 7-9	ADVANCED Grades 10-13
Interest Span	Short, unless topic is of great interest. Can be increased if activity is included (5 to 20 minutes).	Short and varied.	Lengthens with experience and interest in subject or activity.	Almost adult if self-motivated.
Motor Skills	May be easily frustrated by fine motor tasks that are beyond level of coordination.	High interest in doing activity projects. Poor coordination.	Interested in skills for specific use. Can tackle more difficult jobs with more complex coordination.	Highly skilled in areas of interest and practice.
Mental Growth	Curious, learns from hands-on experiences. Developing language.	High-curiosity. Limited experience. Beginning abstract learning.	Increased depth and scope of learning.	Continued increase related to experience. Can see relationships.
Ability to Plan	Has difficulty with multiple step plans over a period of time.	Limited ability, experience, and judgment.	Can plan better than execute.	Has need and ability to plan.
Relation to Adults	Seeks adult leadership and companionship.	Accepts leadership easily from adults.	Needs and wants guidance but rejects domination.	Wants leadership on adult level.
Relation to Age Mates	More interested in small groups under adult supervision.	Needs to feel accepted.	Interested in opposite sex, and in group acceptance.	High interest in groups, "couples" oriented.

References

Adapted from the North Dakota State University 4-H Curriculum Guidelines.



Did You Know...



The National 4-H Council is a not-for-profit organization that supports the 4-H youth development mission and vision by working to bring private sector support to 4-H programs and initiatives at the national, state, and local levels.

For more information on New Jersey 4-H, please visit www.nj4h.rutgers.edu.

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