

4-H PARENTS

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4-H is a family affair, offering many opportunities for both 4-H members and parents. The success of a child's 4-H career depends greatly upon parent support and involvement. By being involved in 4-H, parents can ensure the best growth experience possible for their child.

Parent Involvement is Key

When parents work with the leadership of a project or community 4-H club, assisting with and supporting activities, projects, or events, they are showing their child that they care and are willing to give their time and energy to support their interests. Research shows when parents are involved, children are more likely to progress academically, to enjoy the experience, to

participate in extracurricular activities and are less likely to be a discipline problem. Participation in the 4-H program can help the parent contribute to their community and to the development of their own child and other children.

Benefits for Parents

Involvement in 4-H can promote a sense of adequacy, self-worth, and self-confidence in parents. Parents gain new skills and interests as well as ideas for helping youth learn as they help out. Parents often develop or strengthen a positive rapport with their own child and other youth involved in 4-H. Through involvement in 4-H, parents strengthen their social networks

(Continued on page 2)



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with other parents and youth in the community.

Parental Involvement at Home

With many parents working these days, it might be hard to imagine having the time to help your child. Parents can play an important role at home in supporting their child's 4-H experience by helping them prepare for 4-H club meetings, a 4-H event or contest. They can help their child with 4-H project work and record keeping.

Benefits to the Family

Not only does your child benefit from your involvement in 4-H, families benefit by sharing learning experiences and developing common interests. Through 4-H, family members support each other creating a sense of togetherness. Families are linked to other 4-H members and parents providing a connection with the community.



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