

Youth at Trinity Infant and Child Care Center Participate in 4-H Hands-On Activities

There are many opportunities for after-school and summer school programs to incorporate the many benefits of 4-H. Trinity Infant and Child Care Center (TICCC) is a great example of the many ways to do just that!

TICCC provides quality child care to 130 children, ranging from infants through preschool and 15 kindergartners. It has extensively used 4-H materials and resources with their summer program which enrolls up to 50 school age youth, kindergarten through age 10.

Director Deanna Turner and Assistant Director Bobbie Magnuson keep a strong collaborative relationship going with 4-H staff, taking advantage of the quality materials and resources available to use with a wide age range of youth. They, along with Emily Williams (school-age teacher) and Amanda Reinhardt (kindergarten teacher) meet regularly with 4-H after-school coordinator Teri Hlava to review ideas and resources.

Magnuson says, "We use the 4-H materials to plan our activities. The preschool teachers are encouraged to use the very adaptable materials. The activities are easy to plan and implement."

The emphasis of the 4-H program at TICCC is about discovery through their 4-H activities. The process and learning opportunities are more important than the number of projects completed or the end product.

During the summer, 4-H is scheduled for 1½ hours each week and the time is reserved for 4-H activities only.

They spend four weeks on each 4-H project so children can experience a variety of projects. The children are involved in up to three projects for 12 weeks. They take field trips and have guest speakers related to the projects.

Four different 4-H learning projects are selected by the teachers. Each child selects a project to be involved in. This past summer the four areas were cooking, bugs, "All About Me" and healthy living (nutrition, exercise, grooming). In addition, every child participated in both the Trash to Treasure project (a local 4-H curriculum for protecting the environment) and the gardening project.

For Trash to Treasure, the extension office provided a free check-out kit with curriculum and materials. 4-H staff gave a presentation about reduce-reuse-recycle. The children devised and used trash barrels for separating and collecting plastic, tin and cardboard. Because of this project, they are still recycling these products.

Within the gardening project, the children planted a garden. They made signs and marked the rows of seeds with strings. They grew, cut, washed and ate the vegetables from the garden. This project resulted in an added experience with rabbits eating some of their produce. They had a nature lesson and



In the 4-H gardening project, youth grew and ate their own vegetables.



Youth designed and painted large garden stones which were exhibited at the Lancaster County Fair.

built a fence to protect their garden!

Each year, the child works on an activity that eventually results in an exhibit displayed at the Lancaster County Fair. For instance, this past year the children made a rock garden to enhance their group gardening project. Each child created their own design and painted a large garden stone. These were entered in the fair as 4-H exhibits. Each child received the honor of receiving their own county fair ribbon and favorable written comments by a fair judge.

The youth love attending the county fair! They spend most of one day experiencing the animals, exhibits and many other fair activities.

Bobbie remarks, "The 4-H curriculum is easily combined with other community resources." Last year TICCC planned a bicycle rodeo based on safety. They used the 4-H Bicycle

Project Books Level 1 and 2 to plan the rodeo. TICCC worked with Kiwanis who provided several bicycle rodeo stations for learning about signals and traffic flow. Cycle Works provided a bicycle safety check for all youth. The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department checked the fit of every child's helmet. A Lincoln Police bicycle officer visited with the children about safety and a community member told her personal experience in a bike accident and the importance of safety.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If your after-school or summer program is looking for ways to participate in 4-H learning and fun (for ages 5-18), contact Teri Hlava at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Lancaster County at 441-7180.

Can You Guess It?



Did you guess it? Find out at

<http://lancaster.unl.edu>

Did you guess it from the November/December NEBLINE? The answer was Field Corn in the Husk

U.S. Drought Monitor Map

As of Dec. 9, Lancaster County was not in drought conditions.



	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D1	D1-D2	D2-D3	D3-D4	D4
Current	89.8	10.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Last Week (12/2/2008 map)	89.8	10.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
3 Months Ago (09/16/2008 map)	77.7	22.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Start of Calendar Year (1/1/2008 map)	66.7	33.3	15.9	7.8	1.7	0.0
Start of Water Year (10/1/2007 map)	83.0	17.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
One Year Ago (12/11/2007 map)	66.4	33.6	15.9	7.8	1.7	0.0

Intensity:
 D0 Abnormally Dry
 D1 Drought - Moderate
 D2 Drought - Severe
 D3 Drought - Extreme
 D4 Drought - Exceptional

For the most recent map, visit <http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm>

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Lancaster County 4-H Teen Council presents its annual...



Overnight Lock-In

for 4th & 5th graders
 (need not be enrolled in 4-H)



Jan. 23, 8 p.m. to Jan. 24, 8 a.m.

Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln

This year's theme is...

CANDY LAND



Sleep Over!
 Games!
 Fun Projects!
 Snacks!
 Movies!

Bring your sleeping bag, pillow, toothbrush, toothpaste, active wear, sleepwear (sweats) and a friend interested in 4-H!

Cost \$15/person
 Registrations due by Jan. 20



Sponsored by University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County
 For more information, call 441-7180 and ask for Tracy Kulm.

LOCK-IN REGISTRATION FORM

Make check payable (\$15/participant) to Lancaster County 4-H Teen Council and mail with registration form **BY JAN. 20** to:

Tracy Kulm, UNL Extension in Lancaster County, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln, NE 68528

Name of participant(s) _____ Age _____

_____ Age _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Parent or Guardian _____

Special Needs or Other Information (such as food allergies) _____