Talking with Kids

Presentation Objectives

- Participants will be able to list 5 components of effective listening.
- Participants will be able to explain two ways that they can show interest when communicating with children.
- Participants will be able to identify at least two negative, non-encouraging behaviors when communicating with youth.
- Participants will be able to explain why encouragement is so important when communicating with youth.

How to Use This Presentation

- This presentation is designed to provide your audience with basic communication techniques and skills to use with youth as they serve as volunteers in the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service.
- The presentation module includes:
  1. A PowerPoint presentation (NOTE: You can print out the slides to make overheads, if desired).
  2. A script keyed to the PowerPoint slides.
     1. The script provides you with background information to make it easy for you to present the program in your community.
     2. It can be adjusted to fit your audiences’ needs, the amount of time you have allocated for the presentation, and your individual presentation style.
     3. The information in the script is for your use and background. Use as much or as little with each slide as your situation calls for.
     4. We recommend that you do not read the script as printed, but rather that you become familiar enough with the information so that you can adapt it for your specific audience and give the presentation using notes you have developed.
3. A fact sheet of important information.
   You should make a copy of this four-page handout for each participant. It can be handed out prior to the presentation if you think the group will want to take notes, or it can be saved until the end, and provided to the audience as a reinforcement of the information you provided.

4. An evaluation form that should be administered at the conclusion of the program.
   This evaluation assesses whether the participants have learned the important skills associated with communicating with youth. All evaluations should be returned to the State 4-H Department immediately following the presentation. Send them to the attention of: Optimizing Your Potential as a 4-H Volunteer – attention: Renee McKee, 1161 AGAD, West Lafayette, IN 47907-1161.

Adaptations to This Presentation

This presentation is designed as a 30 or 40 minute program covering some very basic information on communication techniques to use when working with youth. You may wish to adapt this presentation in some way to better suit your particular situation. Some suggested adaptations include:

- Use small group discussion following the presentation to allow participants to share ideas about what techniques they have used with youth that are especially helpful in drawing out youngsters. What techniques do not work?
- Have participants role play youth and adults in different communication settings. What skills should the youth volunteer employ when children are a) worried? b) nervous? c) excited? d) angry?

For Additional Information

Because Youth Matter. University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension Service.
Faber, A. & Mazlish, E. How to Talk so Kids Will Listen, and Listen so Kids Will Talk.