



New Mexico 4-H Green Top Project Guide



New Mexico 4-H Is A Program of New Mexico State University's Cooperative Extension Service

400.M-10
(New 2001)

UNDERSTANDING PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

This project is designed for 9-12 year old 4-H members to develop an understanding of young children.

This can be used as an individual project or a club project when members do the activities together at club meetings. There are opportunities for leadership development, citizenship, exhibits, and demonstrations.

What you will learn from this project:

1. How you feel about being with 3-5 year old children (preschoolers).
2. How to watch or observe children so you can understand how they act.
3. How to use positive ways to help young children behave the way you want them to behave.
4. How to comfort, feed, and play with young children.
5. What toys are safe and unsafe for preschoolers.

What you will need to do this project:

- One or two children who are 3-5 years old that you can watch or observe and play with (with parents in the house)
- Old magazines, paste or glue, crayons, markers, paper
- Toys-safe and unsafe
- Deck of regular playing cards
- Lunch foods
- Washcloth and rubber band

You can exhibit these items at fairs or special achievement days:

- Display of safe and unsafe toys
- Poster showing what you have learned about young children

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NMSU and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.

Leadership activities:

- Give a talk on safe toys at your club or school class.
- Teach a friend what you learned about children.
- Write a letter to your mayor about how important it is to treat children kindly.

Citizenship activities:

- Read to your younger brother or sister or cousin.
- Volunteer to read stories to children in a day care center.
- Volunteer to help clean up at a child care center.
- Help make a snack for young children in your neighborhood.

Demonstrations:

- How to choose foods and make lunch for a preschooler.
- Safe and unsafe toys.

Projects/Activities You Might Enjoy Related to Child Development

Generation Celebration

Adventures with Foods

Super Snacking

The Boy and His Quilt (Curriculum Kit available from the State 4-H Office: 505-646-1166)

The Purple Coat (Curriculum Kit available from the State 4-H Office: 505-646-1166)

Leadership

Citizenship

Sewing I

Photography

By DelCampo 2001