

Understanding Parents Fact Sheet



Positive parent involvement provides numerous benefits:

The 4-H members...

- Gain support and confidence
- Participate with their parents
- Receive more individual attention and guidance
- Develop positive, enthusiastic attitudes

The 4-H parents...

- Help their children learn and grow
- Improve relationships with their children
- Make a contribution to youth in the community
- Get to know their children's friends
- Make new friends and acquaintances in the community
- Show love and concern for children as they maintain an interest in their activities and goals

The 4-H volunteers...

- Can delegate tasks to responsible parents which frees up time for additional club events
- Reach each member more effectively, with a positive adult influence
- Experience satisfaction from watching parent/child relations grow

The 4-H Club...

- Is strengthened, larger, and more active
- Offers additional, expanded activities
- Enjoys enhanced success

Four types of parents are involved with the youth programs. Their characteristics include:

Balanced

- Share planning, decision making, and project work with their children
- Teach children self-discipline as they complete their 4-H projects
- Are kind, but firm and consistent
- Like to be constantly informed of new developments, projects, or activities available
- Stress the educational value of 4-H more than the award received

Overindulgent

- Protect and pamper their children
- Do much of the project work and record keeping for the member
- May have children who lack initiative
- Hinder development of the child's imagination and creativity

Overstrict

- Find fault, give very little constructive criticism and no praise
- Force adult standards on children, making it impossible to succeed
- Have insecure, frustrated, and rebellious children

Unconcerned

- Give children no encouragement
- Have children who tend not to join, but if they do, become only "members"
- Have members who seldom finish projects due to lack of guidance or enthusiasm at home
- May only understand the "surface" of the 4-H experience vs. the life-long learning that is available

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