



4-H VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SERIES

Nebraska 4-H Youth Development

Club Activity Idea: Listening – “I thought you said....”

Outcome Area: __ SET __ Healthy Lifestyles X Life Skills __ Career Development

Curriculum Area: Leadership

Specific Project (s): *Step Up to Leadership 1*

Description of Activity: Participants will listen to someone talk while amid distractions and noise.

Age Level: Grades 3 - 5

Group Size: Minimum of 8

Time Involved: Preparation time: 10 minutes Activity time: 15 – 20 minutes

Materials Needed:

- A source of noise/distraction (TV, radio, or something to play music)

Activity:

Introduction

- Have you ever listened to someone but not really heard what he or she was saying because you weren't “really listening?” Listening takes work. How well you listen is as important as what you say.
- Good listening skills include the following
 - ✓ Repeating what you heard
 - ✓ Communicating clearly
 - ✓ Checking with others for understanding
 - ✓ Responding positively to the speaker
- In this activity you will learn how to listen to a message in order to pass it along correctly.

Directions

- Write down a message that is 10 to 15 words long.
- Sit in a circle arms-length apart. Turn on a TV, radio, or play some music.
- The first person whispers the written message to the next person so no one else can hear.



- Each person repeats what she/he heard to the next person until the message has been sent around the circle.
- The last person states the message aloud.
- Try whispering a new message. This time turn off the TV, radio, or music.

This activity can be done several times with different messages and different distractions. The results may vary with the length of the message and the amount of distraction.

Discussion

Reflect:

- Was the message the same at the end of the circle as at the beginning?
- How did the message change?
- Is it hard to listen carefully with distractions in the room?

Apply:

- Can you think of times when messages got changed in daily life?
- What is the difference between “talking to” and “talking with?”