Practicing youth development skills in 4-H – Lena Weiler

As a 4-H leader, I am always evaluating the physical setting and I am constantly monitoring the youth. I observe what is going on and I work with the youth to make sure they are comfortable and safe. We also go to the aid and support of any 4-H'er from another club or county. As a 4-H member, there was not a lot of formal discussion about creating or developing a safe environment for youth. This is a big change in our 4-H environment, where we have started to see youth and adults in leadership roles who are young. As we learn more about what our youth need, we are able to better meet their needs. It’s important that leaders work to reduce negative outcomes like teasing from their peers or adults. We are looking to reduce peer violence, but also to teach youth how to deal with it. We use a variety of methods to do this, such as role-playing and discussions. We also make sure that we have adult supervision, as this can be a great opportunity to learn about this world. A safe environment is necessary for all the components of Positive Youth Development (PYD).

Case Study:

At our club's first meeting of the year, we had a fantastic turnout. The meeting started with a warm-up activity where everyone had to introduce themselves and tell a fun fact about themselves. This helped us get to know each other and build relationships. We then did a group activity where we had to work together to solve a puzzle. This helped us learn about teamwork and problem-solving. After that, we had a discussion about how to support positive relationships. We talked about the importance of supporting our peers and how to do that.

The most basic and fundamental component of any Positive Youth Development (PYD) framework is a safe and supportive environment. According to Kress (2004), a safe environment is one that provides reliable access to adults and a safe space to meet. Safety is necessary for all the components of PYD, including independence, belonging, generosity, and mastery.

Objective:

The objective of this meeting was to help youth develop positive youth development skills, such as teamwork, problem-solving, and communication. We also wanted to create a safe and supportive environment where youth can learn and grow. By meeting these objectives, we hope to help youth develop the skills they need to succeed in life.

Introduction/Theoretical Framework:

The Positive Youth Development (PYD) framework is designed to give direction and purpose to the 4-H program, to guide 4-H program engagement and leadership, healthy living, and science. Meaningful opportunities for all youth and adults to work on projects that create sustainable change are at the heart of the 4-H program. As a 4-H leader, I am always evaluating the physical setting and I am constantly monitoring the youth. This is a big change in our 4-H environment, where we have started to see youth and adults in leadership roles who are young. As we learn more about what our youth need, we are able to better meet their needs. It’s important that leaders work to reduce negative outcomes like teasing from their peers or adults. We are looking to reduce peer violence, but also to teach youth how to deal with it. We use a variety of methods to do this, such as role-playing and discussions. We also make sure that we have adult supervision, as this can be a great opportunity to learn about this world. A safe environment is necessary for all the components of PYD. Safety is necessary for all the components of PYD, including independence, belonging, generosity, and mastery.

Concept:

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