



## Inclusive 4-H Plan

### Request of Club Leaders

## How Can You Support Youth with Special Needs?

You may have member(s) in your 4-H club or group who have disabilities. Regardless of the disability (physical, mental, developmental, etc.) it is imperative to work with the child and his or her parents/guardians to set goals and modify experiences to meet the child's needs. Being sensitive to the concerns of the parent and child is important to help them feel included.

### Use the Inclusive 4-H Plan to Ensure a Positive Experience for Youth with Disabilities

- Learn about the child and the disability. Talk to the parents or guardians and research potential accommodations on the Internet, at the library, or through a local support group.
- Treat each child as a valued participant. Recognize each child's skills, abilities, talents, and needs.
- Recognize positive behaviors and give lots of positive reinforcement. Make expectations realistic.
- Help the total club membership appreciate and understand the disability of its members.
- Have parents or guardians share information with your county Extension professional to help the 4-H organization better prepare for the member's participation in project judging, camp, and other 4-H opportunities.
- Inclusive 4-H Plan resources and forms can be accessed by contacting your county Extension professional.

Your goal is to provide a positive enriching experience for every 4-H member. Encourage all parents to explain disabilities on the 4-H enrollment form. Even though this is optional, the information can assist your county Extension professional in planning a positive 4-H experience for all youth.