Learning to do by doing is the 4-H way to acquire decision-making skills and to make the best better. Although children have judging experiences long before they become involved in 4-H, their 4-H work further enhances their abilities.

**Objectives of judging**

Judging helps 4-H members develop their abilities to observe thoroughly, encourages them to develop reasoning skills, aids in sound and systematic decision making, encourages members to articulate thoughts and helps members define, appreciate and set high standards.

**Organizing events**

First, review the University of Missouri Extension publication LG 730, *Judging: A 4-H Teaching Technique*. To conduct a judging event, follow this outline of activities:

- Prepare classes
- Establish class placements and reasons for placement
- Secure equipment
- Register participants
- Distribute materials
- Discuss MU publication Y1006, *4-H Judging Card*, and inform members what they will judge
- Announce time limits
- Remind members to wait to discuss decisions or reasons
- Conduct judging
- Listen to reasons and tabulate scores
- Have judge give correct placing and reasons
- Announce results

**Ideas for judging classes**

**Project: child development**

- **Objectives:** learn to respect, understand and care for young children and develop an understanding of the changing needs of children as they develop
- **Situation:** choose story books for preschoolers
- **Class:** selection of story books for preschoolers
- **Need:** four story books varying in plot, length, language, literary form, pictures and size
- **Criteria:** simple stories, short sentences, action and imagination and length short enough to be read in under 10 minutes
- **Source:** bookstores, libraries, nursery schools or day cares

Other suggested situations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Judging classes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginner</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>Toys for preschoolers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Games to encourage make-believe play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>Toys to increase motor skills development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Suitable clothing to encourage self-help in toddlers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>Resourceful baby sitter’s kit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Plans for baby sitter’s clinic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Project: clothing and textiles**

- **Objectives:** have members recognize themselves as individuals, develop an interest in and practice the careful selection of clothing and accessories, develop creative approaches to purchasing and selecting fabrics and develop skills in clothing construction
- **Situation:** help Sue select a pattern line that will accent her height
- **Class:** pattern design lines
- **Need:** four paper dolls wearing garments of vertical, horizontal and diagonal lines and curves
- **Criteria:** unbroken vertical lines slenderize and lengthen a diagonal line. If lines are more lengthwise than crosswise, they slenderize and add height
- **Source:** cut examples out of pattern books; select four paper dolls and use fabric with pattern design

Other suggested situations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Judging classes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginner</td>
<td>521</td>
<td>Sewing box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>522</td>
<td>Fabric selection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>523</td>
<td>Pattern selection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Project: consumer education

Objectives: become aware of credit resources and use of money, learn to wisely use family and personal resources and understand the value and use of consumer guides

Situation: Jim’s parents have suggested he purchase a word processor for his graduation present. Help him decide which to purchase by evaluating the guarantees and warranties

Class: guarantees and warranties

Need: four examples of guarantees and warranties

Criteria: state length, conditions, terms, parts included in the product and who will furnish parts and labor for repairs

Source: examples of guarantees and warranties from stores, examples from magazines or poster board displaying criteria

Other suggested situations:

Project: home environment

Objectives: learn and apply principles of design and function to make the home attractive, comfortable and convenient; understand appreciation and creativity, as well as expense, are important factors in good home furnishings; and apply techniques of efficient energy use as it relates to housing, furnishing and home equipment

Situation: help Kathy plan to make a wall hanging for her bedroom

Class: planning a wall hanging

Need: four pictures of wall hangings or real craft objects with a written description of Kathy’s bedroom

Criteria: suitability of fabric weave, color and texture and amount of space to display wall hanging

Source: magazines, interior design agencies and department stores

Other suggested situations: