

Educational Presentation Techniques

Goal Setting by the Presenter

Generally, there are principles that apply regardless of the age of the student.

Whenever kids are on an out-of-school experience you want to:

- include and meet the Ontario curriculum expectations so that the experience will directly relate to classroom topics that must be completed.
- make the experience an enjoyable one that could not occur in the classroom.
- leave the participants with something that can be transferred to a real life situation.
- leave the teachers and students with probing questions, challenging follow-ups and cross-curricular connections that will entice them to continue with this topic when they return to their classroom environment.

If you are able to plan with these goals in mind, you will be offering a rewarding and fulfilling experience for all participants. Teachers will be able to expand the presentation to the classroom and students will be able to make connections to their own lives.

Steps to a Successful Presentation:

- ◆ Know your audience: Plan your activities and messages to suit a specific audience or age group. Don't use the same questions for kindergarten to grade 8! Generally kindergarten to Grade 2, Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8, and high school/adult can be categorized by level and topics of interest.
- ◆ Pick a Message: Make your display and your presentation memorable with a key message. Think about what the students will tell their parents about when they go home. Pick a different message each year to help change the pace. Examples: environment, animal care, health, nutrition, food safety.
- ◆ Don't try to cram too much in! The biggest challenge in agricultural education is to streamline messages and information. We can't give them a lifetime experience on the farm in a 10-minute visit!
- ◆ Animals attract attention: At times it can be difficult to arrange for pigs to be on site. The animals are definitely the stars of any display, and pigs are particular crowd pleasers! A static display cannot compete with live pigs for popularity.

- ◆ Fit the curriculum: Teachers' time is at a premium, as they try to meet curriculum demands. It is very important that your presentations meet curriculum expectations for the groups you are speaking to. There are curriculum expectations in Section Four of this guide. Teachers will be looking for these when they visit your exhibit. If you want to be an instant success with the teachers, then pick three to five of these expectations for your presentation and post them. Expectations are written according to the age group, so be sure that you know the grade of your audience. The teachers will be delighted that the expectations are on display and can now evaluate the children when they go back to class. Posting the expectations specific to your presentation will enhance the learning and improve the quality of your presentation.
- ◆ Hand out enough materials for each child to the teacher at the end of the presentation. Don't give 'take back to the classroom' materials to children - chances are good they will never make it there!
- ◆ Fill out an event plan (there's one included in this binder). What is your backup plan if something happens that you cannot attend? Give a copy of your plan to another volunteer who could take your place or arrange for someone else to help out. It's also a great record for planning future events. Have your plan on hand when you call Ontario Pork to order resources.
- ◆ Make it interactive and fun! A dry lecture isn't very memorable. Getting the students involved with a smile is the key to success!