



HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AREA



Have fun learning how to design your space while being kind to the environment. If you are interested in creating a new color scheme, selecting new accessories for a room, or to installing a new floor or window covers, this is the project for you.

Ideas for Project Area Learning

- Master the elements and principles of design to make your house a home.
- Plan home living spaces in keeping with the needs of family members.
- Develop your skill in caring for home furnishings and accessories.
- Explore opportunities for environmentally friendly choices in your home.
- Learn the language of home improvement design elements and principles.
- Plan and design your own space with new techniques.
- Discover and compare costs to design and accessorize your space.
- Practice choosing wall treatments, window coverings, and floors.
- Discover how paint, wall treatments, flooring, and window coverings create different effects in a home.
- Get the 411 on furniture styles.
- Plan your space using needs, wants, and timelines to make choices.
- Create design drawings to visualize living spaces.
- Learn helpful strategies for developing a shopping list.
- Coordinate fabrics and patterns.
- Effectively reduce clutter and stash your stuff.
- Take care of your furniture possessions.
- Experiment with the arrangement of photos on a wall for different effects.
- Select fun accessories for the finishing touch.
- Install bright lighting fixtures.
- Examine environmentally friendly practices such as reduce, reuse, recycle, and rethink.
- Investigate energy wasters in the home.

APPLY WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED

Communication

- Share with friends how to select a color scheme for their bedroom.
- Develop a step-by-step checklist showing how to cover a headboard using padding and fabric.
- Create a video showing how to be energy efficient in the home.

Civic Engagement

- Assist an older person with painting their living room.
- Share with family and friends how to keep living spaces safe.
- Show local museum staff how to arrange, protect, and display historical items correctly.

Leadership

- Show siblings how shared space can be divided using furniture placement.
- Teach adults the proper disposal methods of refinishing materials.
- Work with a non-profit in creating a functional meeting space.

Entrepreneurship

- Repurpose old furniture pieces into new items and resell.
- Refinish or reupholster items for people to go with their current décor.
- Create murals for nurseries, youth organizations, or personal homes.



Goal Setting and Record Keeping

Goal setting is an ongoing process that guides your project area learning. Having goals is like having a road map to show you how to get you to where you want to go. Record keeping is also an ongoing process and another important life skill. In 4-H, you are encouraged to select from a variety of record keeping formats to meet your own personal needs and your preferred learning style. Keeping records of your learning experiences helps you determine how well you met your goals. Goal setting and record keeping improve your skills in organization, communication, planning, and evaluating.

Iowa 4-H Event Opportunities

- Participate in **county and state fair** exhibit classes.
- Check with your local county 4-H youth development staff to see if there are special events or **workshops in your county** that you want to attend to learn more about your project areas.
- Iowa 4-H members in grades 9–12 can apply for **State Project Area Awards** at State Recognition Day. Applications are open December through January.
- Meet young people from around the state who have completed grades 8–12, and share your interests at the **Iowa 4-H Youth Conference** held at Iowa State University in late June.
- Participate in **Design Camp**, put on each summer by Iowa State University College of Design in Partnership with Iowa 4-H.

Share Your Learning With an Exhibit

- Take photos of home decoration that demonstrates the use of design elements and principles.
- Compare the pros and cons of sponging, rag rolling, stenciling, and stamping walls.
- Refinish a family antique chair, table, stand, or dresser.
- Illustrate how various wall coverings and flooring have different effects on livings spaces.
- Create a poster that provides examples of elements of different furniture styles.
- Develop a design board showing how an existing floor plan can be made to be more functional.
- Compare the effectiveness of different products in removing stains from hard and soft home furnishings.

CAREER CONNECTIONS

- **Interior designers** help their clients creatively and artistically decorate and furnish spaces.
- **Home remodelers** creatively design and construct the interior and exterior of houses.
- **Contractors** work to oversee construction jobs by hiring workers, providing materials, and scheduling inspections.
- **Architects** work to build, restore, and conserve buildings through innovative new ways.
- **Home appraisers** help people prepare and inspect homes while collecting data to find the worth of a home.

EDUCATION CONNECTIONS

- Study **architecture** if you are interested in creating blueprints, managing development, and ensuring the safety of workers.
- Students in **interior design** artistically create, design, and furnish the interior of buildings.
- If you enjoy drawing, building, or designing, you may be interested in **structural engineering**.
- If you enjoy working with people, designing rooms, and studying scripts, you may be interested in studying **set design**.

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