***When, where, and how often should Clover Kids meet?*** The structure of the Clover Kids meetings can look different depending on what the leaders choose and what works best for that individual club! Some Clover Kids groups meet in an after-school setting once a month or even once a week. Some meet in the evening once a month, and some Clover Kids groups will meet at the same time and place as their local 4-H Club. Clover Kids can be short term or long term; for example, a long-term program may meet once a month all year round, where a short-term program may meet weekly for 1.5 hours each week in a single month.

***What does the structure of the Clover Kids meeting look like?*** The structure of a Clover Kids meeting has flexibility. Here are some ideas: You may want to start with an icebreaker or energizer; however, if your Clover Kids program meets after school, you may want to start with a snack! If you start with a snack, consider if there is a way to incorporate the day’s learning that the youth will be doing into snack time, possibly incorporating discussion or an activity about the day’s learning into the snack time. Clover Kids meetings can include time for the 4-H pledge as well as introductions as needed. You can be creative in how the pledge and introductions are conducted by choosing Clover Kids leaders to take the lead each meeting in the pledge and/or helping with introductions if there are new members to the group, etc. Clover Kids meetings should include the learning; you may call this “lesson time,” “group time,” or “Clover Kids circle time,” etc. Consider ways that you will keep the Clover Kids engaged in the learning time.

***When you have younger youth such as Kindergarteners, as well as older youth such as third graders, all together in your Clover Kids groups, how do you make sure all are included and stay involved and engaged in their learning?*** Our Clover Kids leaders had some great suggestions; many of these suggestions involve encouraging the older youth to become helpers for the younger youth and giving the older youth leadership roles and tasks that allow them to help lead while providing encouragement and help with the younger youth. You may also want to try dividing the Clover Kids into groups for activities, being sure that each group has older youth and younger youth so that the leadership and learning can continue, as well as teamwork.

***What are ways you can include the Clover Kids in their learning?*** Utilize self-exploration and encourage the Clover Kids to problem solve in order to complete a task or experiment. Find ways to identify the Clover Kids’ interests and what they would like to learn more about. Clover Kids often enjoy working in teams, and when given the opportunity to report back to the larger group, they have a chance to reflect on the process, the learning, and the end result. Encourage the Clover Kids to learn through mistakes and guide their own learning when possible. Ask the youth questions during their learning: What is going well? What is challenging? What ideas do you have? What would you do differently next time? How did doing this activity help you to learn about this or that? Encourage the thought process of “Do, Reflect, Apply.” Encourage group report-backs, give the Clover Kids an opportunity to share their process and the learning back to the larger group.

***How do you find a balance between learning and fun?*** Include both learning and fun in the Clover Kids activities. For example, what game can be played to help with the learning? Consider ways you can accomplish both goals of learning while having fun! Allow time for youth to explore activities and work through them prior to beginning the guiding and questions that lead to the concepts that we want them to learn about. Also, consider how your games can be active; this allows youth to have the movement that they need, so that when it’s time for sit-down activities, they are more prepared to be ready to learn. Consider ways that you can make connections for the Clover Kids between their learning and their daily life.

***What are ways you make learning fun?*** Combining learning and fun is key; the fun often comes when we engage the youth’s hands, and learning comes when we engage their minds. Allow the youth space for creativity! For example, if teaching the color wheel, allow the youth to put the primary colors on their plate, then encourage the youth to mix the colors themselves—discovering what the different colors mixed together become, identifying primary and secondary colors. Songs with motions are great ways to teach learning and concepts. During times where youth need to sit and listen more in order to understand a concept, be sure to engage the youth with questions—allowing time to consider the questions or using sticky notes to write their responses, etc. Consider “show and tell” opportunities to share about their learning while also increasing communication skills.

***Icebreakers & Energizers: what do Clover Kids leaders say about these?*** Icebreakers and Energizers are a great way to start your meetings, giving youth the opportunity to get to know each other better while getting engaged in the meeting. Consider ways that the youth can be active when doing energizers and how it can relate to the learning that will take place as well. For specific icebreaker ideas from the Clover Kids leaders, watch the Clover Kids Icebreakers and Energizers video!

***How do you prepare Clover Kids for the transition into the 4-H Club?*** Clover Kids leaders can build connections to project areas, helping Clover Kids to identify project-area interests and helping them think about where they can go with that project area once they are in the 4-H Club. Encourage Clover Kids youth to participate in 4-H-type programs and activities, such as the fair. As the fair is approaching, Clover Kids meetings can center around project ideas that they may want to try and engage in. Engage the parents in the Clover Kids learning, keep parents up to date with the learning that is happening at the meetings, and provide information to the 4-H websites and information about the 4-H Club program. Provide a time that the Clover Kids and parents can meet with local 4-H Clubs and learn more about the transition into the Club.