

# COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



**EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE**  
*Changing Lives*

***When you support Extension, youth with special needs practice essential life skills to increase independence.***



*During Community Day, special needs students develop practical living skills for independence and job readiness.*

Contact:

Boone County Cooperative  
Extension  
6028 Camp Ernst Road  
Burlington, KY 41005-0876  
(859) 586-6101

<http://boone.ca.uky.edu/>

## **Boone County School District Incorporates Extension Programing into Individual Education Plans (IEP) of Special Needs Students**

*Monthly programs at the Boone County Extension Office incorporate basic life skills, fine and gross motor skills, and academic skills.*



[extension.ca.uky.edu](http://extension.ca.uky.edu)

## Boone County 4-H adapted educational materials and programs to serve over 900 special needs student over the past thirteen years.

In Kentucky, over 44,000 school children receiving special education services must have an Individual Education Plan (IEP). (KDE, 2017) This legal document is an education plan that addresses the specific needs of each student with disabilities. One aspect of the IEP is community education through strategic experiences. The Boone County Cooperative Extension Service (CES) collaborated with the Walton Verona School District and the Boone County School District to provide classes for the community educational experience. Students from one high school class, two middle school classes and two elementary school classes attend monthly Extension programs.

Classes held at the Boone County Enrichment Center allow for a broad range of activities that would normally be difficult in the school classroom. Basic life skills presented include dental health, nutrition, food safety, personal hygiene, and physical fitness.

Other aspects of the IEP included by CES and teachers focused on gross motor skills, math, and social skills. Session objectives included gaining independent living skills such as basic food preparation, reading comprehension, math skills, and food and kitchen safety. Parents receive additional Extension educational materials.

In addition to progressing toward their individual academic goals, teachers reported that students were more active, exhibited improved social behavior and personal hygiene. Parents reported using the information provided by Extension and commented on how their children look forward to visiting the Extension Enrichment Center.



*4-H activities incorporate occupational therapy skills as youth work toward independence.*



*Students learn to identify and categorize food. The food preparation activities introduce them to a variety of healthy food options.*