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Suggested Activities and Projects:

YOUR FIRST HOME AWAY FROM HOME

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SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS FOR
"YOUR FIRST HOME AWAY FROM HOME"

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When young adults anticipate moving out of the family home, they usually have numerous questions about where they'll live and how they'll establish their first home. 4-H Bulletin 76 provides much helpful information and raises many questions the young adult may not even have considered. The reference list at the end of the bulletin contains specific information sources.

Learning can take place individually and/or in groups. Sometimes it is more interesting to talk things over with others than to wonder about them alone or to learn by trial and error, which can be expensive and frightening. This publication contains suggestions for individual and group learning activities for young adults.

Activities--Some Ideas

A small planning group could get together and plan some activities. The group's suggestions can be your guide for this project. After reading the bulletin, you'll think of other activities.

Your group might plan a series of discussion meetings to include some of the following activities.

1. Invite a young adult who already has his or her own apartment or room to discuss such things as:
 - * Renting an apartment.
 - * Selecting or finding roommates.
 - * Buying furnishings.
 - * Managing finances.
 - * Developing sales resistance to door-to-door salesmen who sell sterling, pots and pans, china, insurance, magazines, knife sets, etc.
 - * Experiences encountered when living away from home.

Three 6-8 minute discussion tapes of a girl telling about her experiences in establishing her first apartment are available (see page 4).

2. Individually, or in groups, shop for first home furnishings at garage sales, estate sales, local stores, and through the want ads, especially for large pieces of furniture.

You might select one or two specific items and see who can find the best deal. Compare your experiences at a group session.

See slide set 731 (see page 4).

3. Assemble all the equipment you think is important in a specific area of the home, such as cooking equipment or cleaning equipment. Have two or three groups work on the same area and see what differences arise. Where can you buy or borrow these items? What do they cost? Would boys select the same items as girls?
4. Collect a number of items needed in a home. Decide where the items could be stored, which things need to be stored near each other, and what arrangements could be made for convenient storage areas.

Individuals might want to design their own storage areas. Check magazines, newspapers, and extension bulletins for storage ideas.

See slide set 751 (see page 4).

5. Make up skits with different endings to the following situations:
 - a. Roommates have just moved into an apartment, have arranged for furnishings, and need to decide how they're going to handle financial matters. What plans will they have to make for paying the rent, paying the utility and telephone bills, and buying groceries and other household supplies?
 - b. Roommates have just moved into an apartment. After the first week, it needs to be cleaned and rearranged. How are they going to divide the work? What standards of cleanliness do they want? What if they don't agree on how clean is clean? Who will do the cooking? Who will do the shopping?
 - c. One roommate wants to have a pizza party and invite many guests. Another roommate isn't sure she's included in the party. Who will get the apartment ready, arrange for food, and clean up afterwards?
 - d. Roommates must face some emergencies:
 - * An intruder enters the apartment.
 - * A fire starts on the range.
 - * A roommate becomes sick suddenly.
 - * The plumbing doesn't work and there's water all over.
 - * There's a bus strike and no one has a car.
 - * There's a power failure and the lights go out, the heat and appliances are off, and the elevator isn't running.

6. Check the want ads and arrange for a small group to visit apartments that are for rent. Inform the landlords that you are just looking. After visiting the apartments, discuss:
 - * The differences among apartments.
 - * What individuals liked. What was missing.
 - * What affects rental cost.
 - * Whether young adults are welcome in all apartments.
 - * Ages of other tenants in apartments visited.
 - * The most important things to consider when renting an apartment.

Getting Ready to Move--Some Considerations--Some Ideas

Are you interested in collecting furniture and furnishings for your first home? What will you need? What do you want to have ready for your move? If you know whom you'll room with, you might want to start planning early.

Check magazines, newspapers, and extension bulletins for ideas on the style and color of furnishings you would like to have. You may find ideas for fixing up things you already own.

Have you asked your family, relatives, and close friends about furniture or household items you might be able to have, borrow, or buy from them? You might be surprised at what is already available!

Here are some ideas for construction projects:

MAKE, REBUILD, REFINISH, or ANTIQUE furniture.

BUILD brick and board or other storage areas for books, magazines, records, etc.

MAKE a table from a spool used by utility companies for wire.

PAINT or DECORATE sturdy cardboard or wooden boxes to serve as end tables, storage units, or packing boxes.

MAKE or RECOVER large pillows for use on the floor or on lounges and sofas.

MAKE or SELECT decorative items for the walls, floor, or table tops.

REUPHOLSTER a piece of furniture.

LEARN to make some simple household repairs:

- * Rewire a lamp or repair or replace a plug.
- * Fix a faucet or solve some other plumbing problem.
- * Repair walls with patching plaster.

Teaching Aids

Tape, "Furnishing Your First Apartment" (three interviews on one tape)

7 minutes, "The Basics for a Couple"

7 minutes, "Equipment and Furnishings"

5½ minutes, "Kitchen Equipment"

Slide Set 751, "Low Cost Furnishings and Ideas for a First Apartment"

Part 1, 20 slides on furnishings

Part 2, 18 slides on storage ideas

The tape and slide set are available from:

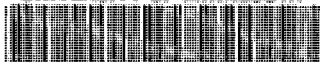
Visual Aids Department
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Newspapers and some of the popular women's magazines have good ideas. See especially the July 1970 issue of Better Homes and Gardens.

Check the references listed at the end of 4-H Bulletin 76, Helps for Starting Your First Home Away from Home.

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