

Volunteer Research, Knowledge, Competency (VRKC)

Taxonomy for 4-H Youth Development

4-H National Headquarters
Volunteers for the Next Generation



Positive Youth Development: Developing Life Skills

What is a Life Skill?

- Skills that help an individual to be successful in living a productive and satisfying life.
- Life skills learned through 4-H create the foundation for the essential elements of positive youth development and lead youth to become capable, competent citizens.



Essential Elements of Positive Youth Development

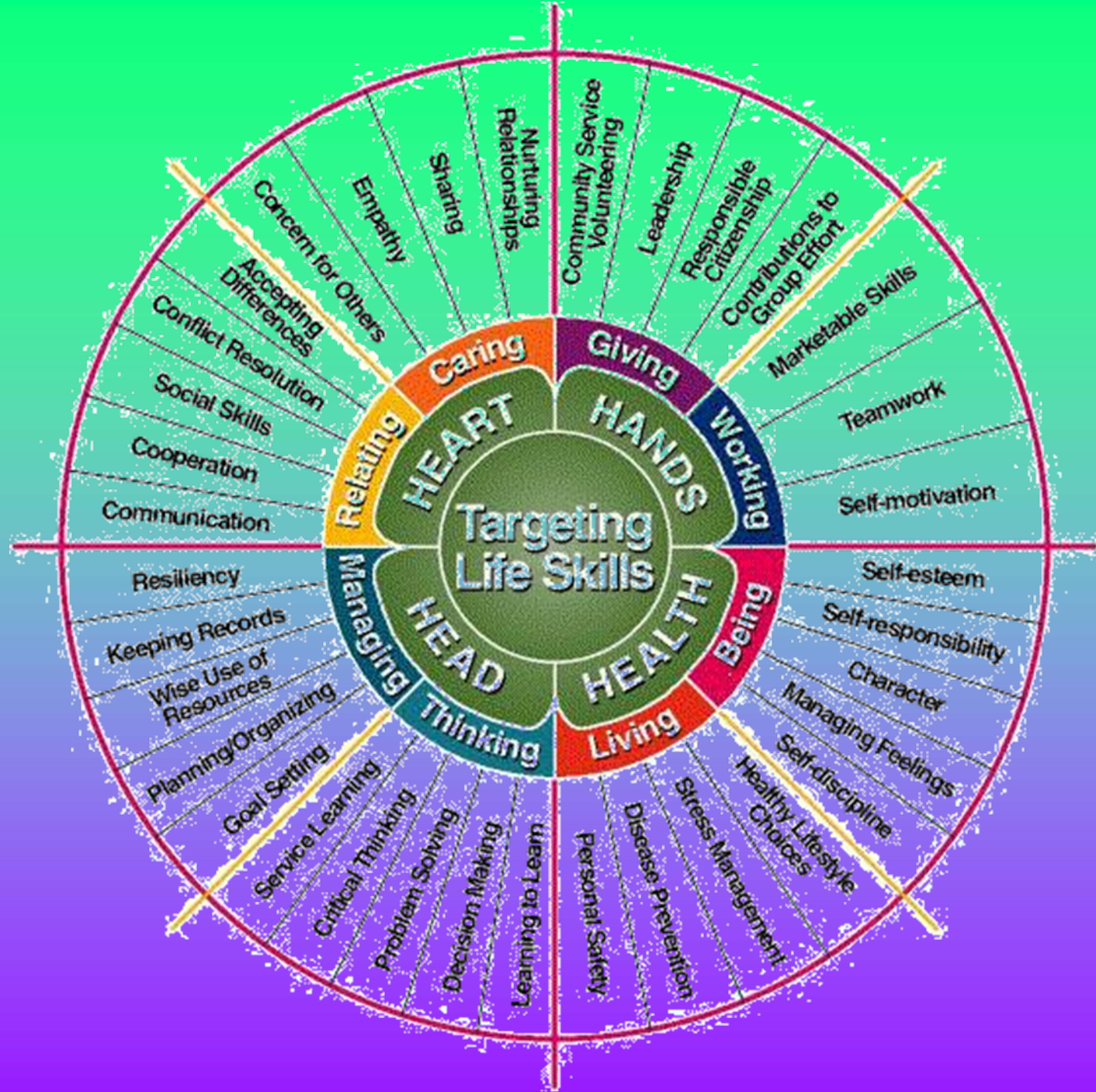
- Belonging – Youth learn life skills through a positive relationship with a caring adult in a safe, inclusive environment.
 - Mastery – Youth have opportunities to try, make mistakes, and learn as they build skills, knowledge, and attitudes.
 - Independence – Youth have the opportunity to see themselves as active participants in their future and become self-directed, autonomous adults.
 - Generosity – Youth have opportunities to value and practice service to others.
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The Connection

4-H Pledge	Essential Element	Life Skill Categories
Head	Independence	Thinking, Managing
Heart	Generosity	Relating, Caring
Hands	Mastery	Working, Giving
Health	Belonging	Being, Living





Strengthening Life Skills Experiences

- What are the life skills that need to or could be learned?
- How can these life skills be taught through experiences?
- How can these life skills be reinforced in future situations?
- How can these life skills be used to strengthen family situations?
- How can youth be involved in the planning of this experience and in teaching roles to support these skills?
- How can transfer of these skills be reinforced in the future?



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Thank You

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VRKC:
Volunteer Research Knowledge Competency Taxonomy



Volunteers for the Next Generation

