



# Skillathons for Learning

**P**roject meetings in which members say they learned the most as well as enjoyed the most are those which they were challenged to think for themselves and those in which their ideas were listened to and accepted. One method which allows this to happen is popularly called “Learning By Doing Before Being Told or Shown How”. As the following flow chart indicates the 4-H’ers are provided the materials, supplies and resources, given a situation and task to do and are then allowed to come up with their own answers. The leader moves from group to group reinforcing their efforts as needed without imposing “answers”. Not surprisingly both leaders and members often find that they learn more and feel better about themselves at the conclusion of these meetings.

## Examples of Situations and Tasks

One of the key ingredients to this method is Step 3. “Provide the 4-H’ers with a realistic situation and a task to respond to.” Situations to which the 4-H’ers can readily relate will quickly get them involved and working together. Here are some possibilities:

### Caring For the Newborn:

**Situation:** *One of your project sows is farrowing.*

**Your Task:** *Demonstrate what you would do as each pig is born.*

### Clipping Needle Teeth

**Situation:** *You just get home from school. A note is left on the kitchen table asking you to clip the needle teeth of the new litter.*

**Your Task:** *Demonstrate how you would clip the teeth.*

### Ear Notching a Pig

**Situation:** *The new litter was number 42.*

**Your Task:** *Demonstrate how you would ear notch all ten pigs in the litter.*

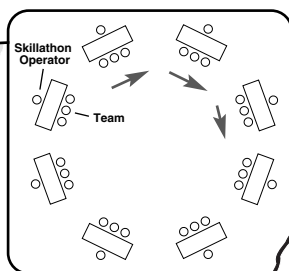
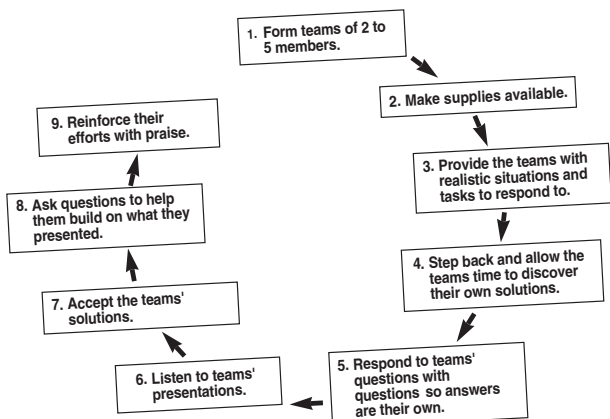
### Castrating a Pig

**Situation:** *Your neighbor has asked you to come over and show him how to castrate his new litter.*

**Your Task:** *Demonstrate what you will show your neighbor about castrating pigs*

As the members strive to do the task “their way” many opportunities for helping members develop life skills are presented. The importance of “keeping the ball in the members’ court” cannot be overemphasized. Being sincerely interested in the personal growth of each individual, observing and listening, staying just out of the way, asking thought provoking questions and praising their efforts will pay tremendous dividends.

## Skillathon Model



# Sewing the Model Baby Pig

## Materials Needed

1/2 yard fake suede or fine plush scraps of pink felt for lining ears and mouth

scrap of red felt for tongue

1/2 lbs. fiberfill or 1-1/2 quarts styrofoam pellets for stuffing body

2 shank type buttons or plastic eyes

1-1/2 inches velcro for scrotum openings

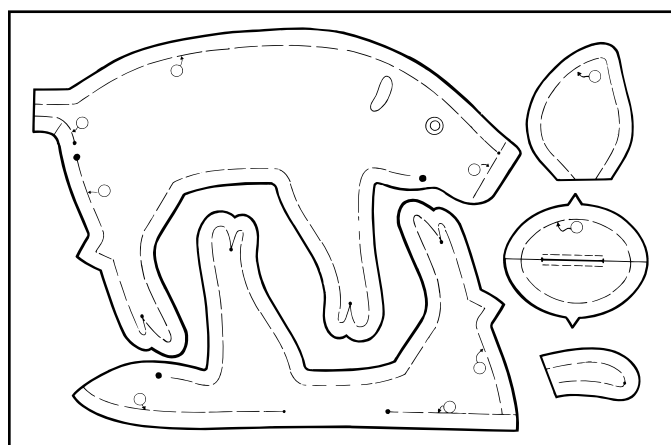
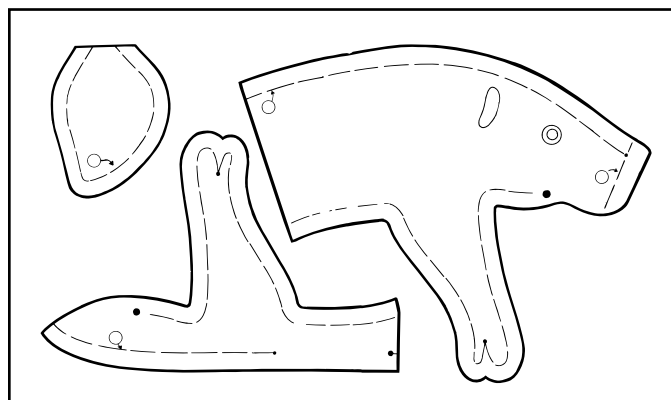
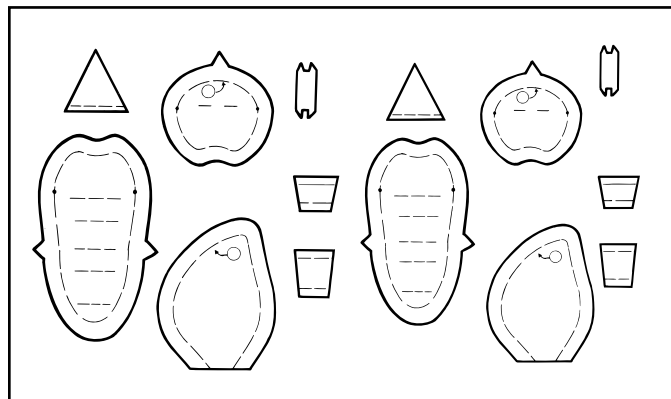
2 small beads

9 inch piece plastic tube 1/4 inch diameter for nostrils and rectal tube

2 snaps for attaching removable tail and umbilical cord

1 yd. pink yarn or crocheted cotton for umbilical cord

3 inches of pipe cleaner or chenille craft wire (optional) for curled piglet tail



## Cutting Directions

1. Remove pattern pieces from book and cut out the paper pattern pieces.
2. Follow cutting layout. Mark dots with tailor's chalk or tailor's tacks.
3. Mark solid heavy lines on pattern pieces with basting stitch. Use a contrasting thread.
4. Cut out 2 ear linings, 1 mouth lining, from pink felt.
5. Cut out tongue from red felt.

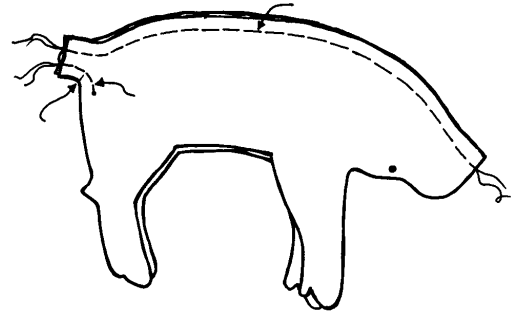
## Sewing Instructions

Use 3/8 inch seam allowance.

Use 1/4 inch seam allowance where indicated.

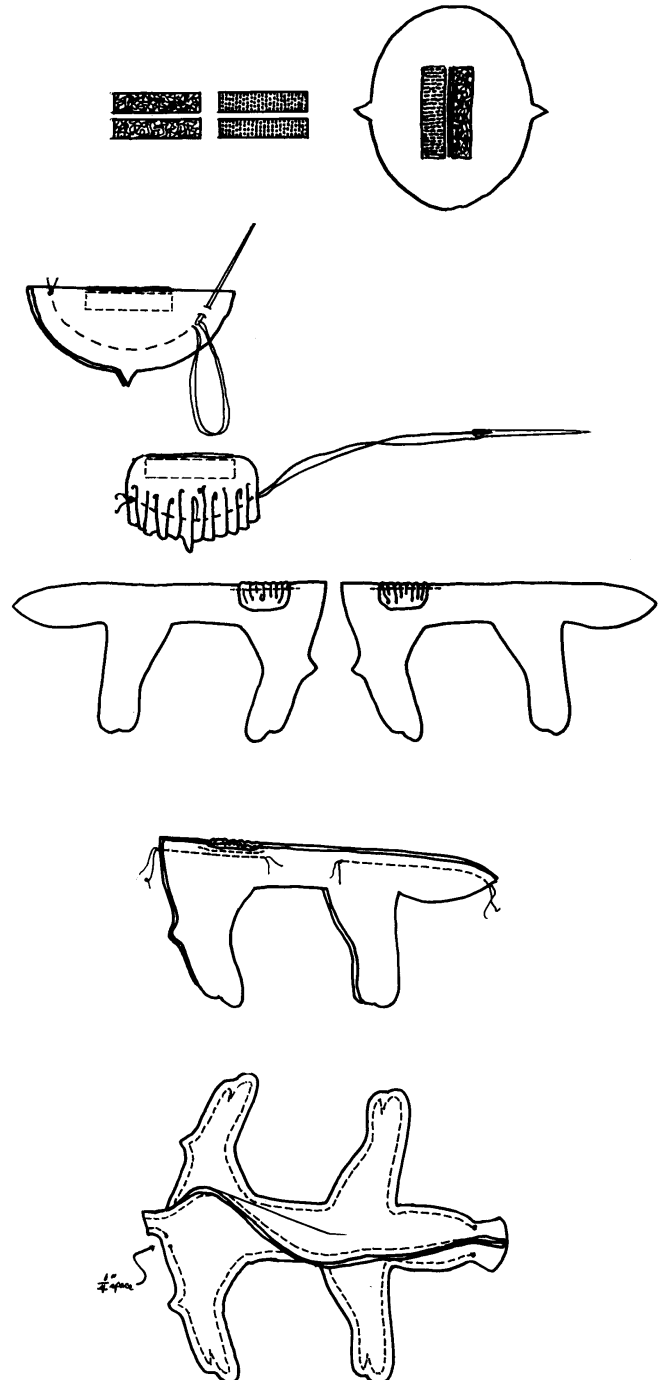
## Step 1. Body

1. Pattern piece 1. Pin right sides of fabric together.
2. Stitch along seam line (A) to small dot.
3. Stitch along seam line (B) to small dot.
4. Clip seam line (B) at clip mark.



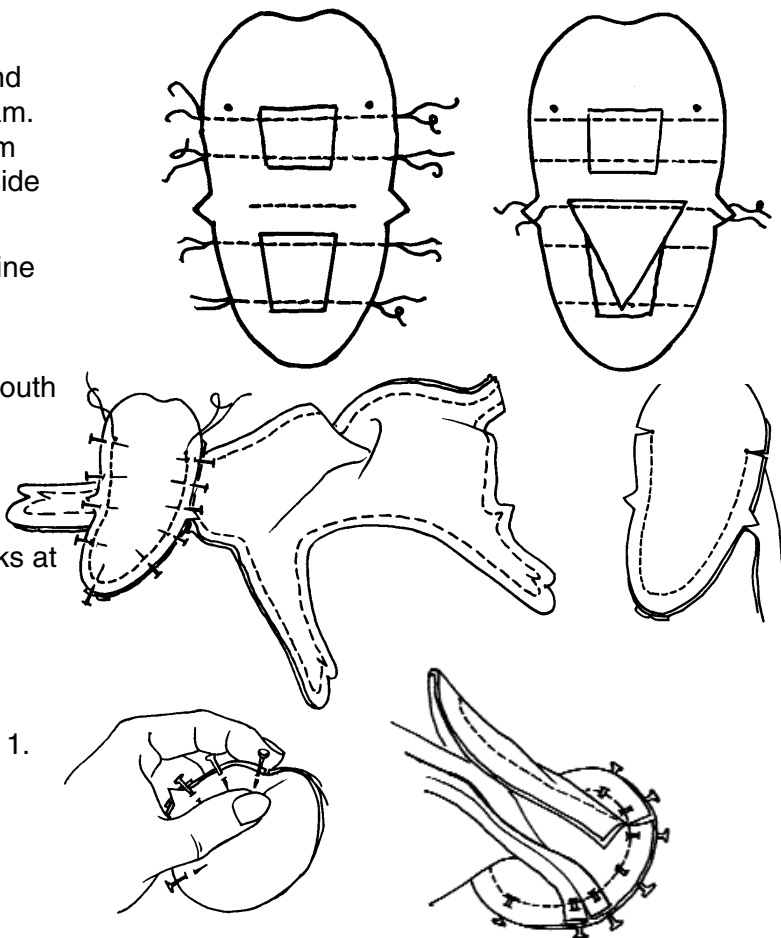
## Step 2. Scrotum

1. Pattern piece 3. Cut 1-1/2 inch slit in both pattern pieces along solid heavy line.
2. Cut 1-1/2 inch piece of velcro.
3. Cut velcro piece in half, lengthwise.
4. Sew velcro to scrotum. On small dotted lines, attach velcro on inside of fabric.
5. Fold scrotum in half lengthwise with inside of fabric together, matching notches. Gather by hand seam line (F) to 1-1/2 inches.
6. Join scrotum to seam line (C), pattern piece 2. Stitch scrotum into seam allowance one on each side from seam line (C) to large dot.
7. Pattern piece 2. With right sides of fabric together, stitch seam line (C) and (D) to small dots.
8. Join large dots, pattern piece 1 (body), to large dots, pattern piece 2 (body), at mouth opening. Stitch from large dot at head to large dot below tail. This will provide space for rectal tube.



### Step 3. Mouth and Snout

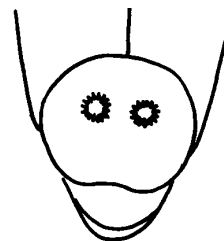
1. Pattern pieces 5, 5A and 5B. Place 5A and 5B on pattern piece 5. Stitch 1/8 inch seam. Leave the ends of 5A and 5B open to form pocket for needle teeth. This is the right side of the mouth.
2. Pattern piece 6. Stitch tongue on dotted line to pattern piece 5.
3. Match small dots and notches of pattern piece 5 (mouth) to dots and notches of mouth opening of animal body. Pin and stitch.
4. Clip to small dots at the end of stitching.
5. Match snout to body. Place notch at seam A and match small dots at clip marks at end of stitch line.
6. Stitch seam of snout to body.
7. Turn piglet right side out.
8. Attach eyes at markings on pattern piece 1.



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### Step 4. Nostrils

1. Cut two 2 inch pieces tubing. Cut 1/4 inch slits on snout.
2. Place one piece of tubing through each slit and stitch tube to felt by hand on the outside using an overcast stitch.



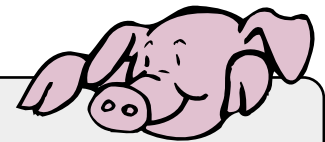
### Step 5. Ears

1. Pattern pieces 7 and 7A. With right sides together, pin and stitch seam line (H). Leave opening at bottom for turning.
2. Trim seam to 1/8 inch.
3. Turn ears right side out.



## Step 6. Notching Ears

1. The ears may be notched according to the system shown on the following diagram.
2. Cut diagram notches this size:
3. Overcast notches by hand or small zig-zag machine stitch to prevent raveling.
4. Turn ear opening in 1/4 inch. Stitch ears on head at heavy dark markings.



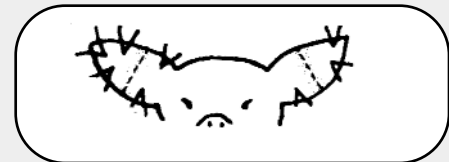
### Ear Notching System

#### *For identifying litters and pigs in litter*

DO NOT put a notch in the hyphenated line, shaded area.

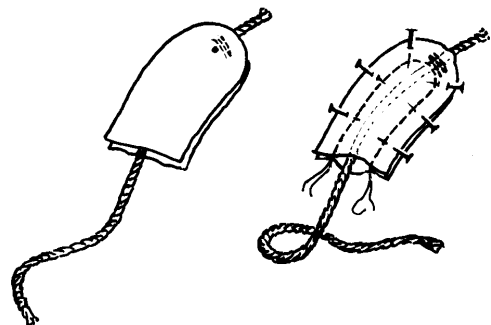
**Litter Mark:** Right ear is used for litter mark and all pigs in same litter must have the same ear notches in this ear. Right ear is on pig's own right.

**Individual Pig Marks:** Left ear is used for notches to show individual pig number in the litter. Each pig will have different notches in this ear.



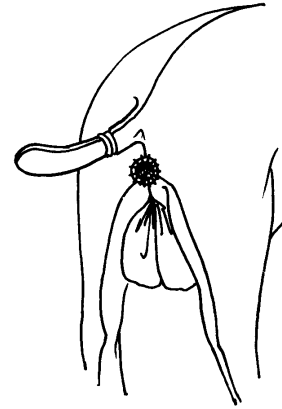
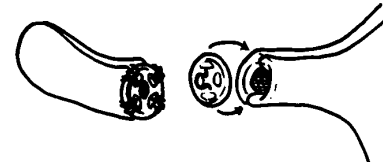
## Step 7. Tail

1. Pattern piece 8. For ease in turning, place strong piece of string between the two pieces of fabric right sides together. Stitch string into seam at tip. Leave 4 or 5 inches of string at open end of tail.
2. Pin and stitch seam line.
3. Trim seam to 1/8 inch.
4. Turn tail by firmly pulling string through open end.
5. Cut string away from turned tail.
6. Turn very small portion of tail opening in to provide a base for stitching snap. Place 1/2 of snap on open end of tail.
7. Stitch remaining half of snap on tail stub, turning a small portion in to provide a base for stitching.



## **Step 8. Rectal Tube**

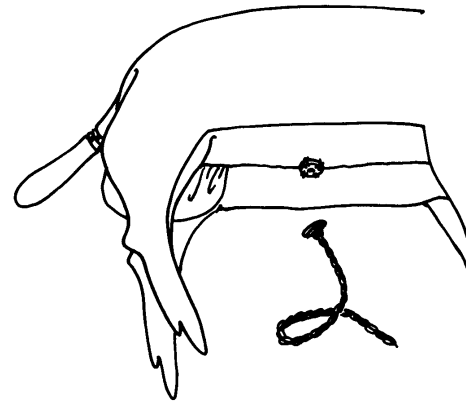
1. Place 5 inch piece of tubing in opening of seam (E) and (C) at base of tail. Stitch in place using an overcast stitch.



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## **Step 9. Stuffing Pig**

1. The head of the pig will be firm and the remainder of the pig should be stuffed to hold its shape but retain the flexible characteristics of a newborn.
2. Stitch by hand between seam (C) and (D).



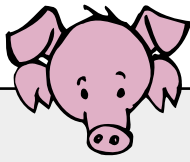
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## **Step 10. Umbilical Cord**

1. Using cord or cotton braid, twist or crochet an umbilical cord 5 inches long.
2. Sew 1/2 of snap to end of cord.
3. Sew 1/2 of the snap to 2 inches from scrotum directly on seam (C) and (D) closure.

## **Step 11. Needle Teeth**

1. Pattern piece 9. Insert in tooth pockets and bend tooth.
2. When teeth are clipped remove plastic and insert new sets.



# **Pig Puppet Pattern**

## **Step 1. Body**

1. Pattern piece 1. Stitch along seam line (A).
2. Pattern piece 2. Stitch along seam line (B).
3. Join large dot pattern piece 1 to large dot pattern piece 2, at mouth opening.
4. Pin and stitch seam line (C).
5. Clip seam line (C) to small dot to form dew claw.
6. Trim feet [seam (C)] to 1/8 inch.

## **Step 2. Mouth and Snout**

Follow Step 3 of pig pattern.

## **Step 3. Ears**

Follow Step 4 of pig pattern.

## **Step 4. Needle Teeth**

Follow Step 10 of pig pattern.

## **Step 5. Nostrils**

Draw nostrils on snout or use short pieces of plastic tubing. Follow Step 5 of pig pattern.

## **Step 6. Finishing**

Place eyes on markings, pattern piece 1.

Finish hand opening with bias tape or narrow hem.

