



Equine Therapy for Children with Special Needs

Hooves for Harmony Policies and Procedures

Health

- ❖ Children who are too ill to attend school should not attend a therapy session.
- ❖ Any change in medications or health should be brought to the attention of Heather Parker before the child begins riding.

Attendance

- ❖ **Each week the schedule is posted** on Facebook as well as updates on weather and cancellations. If you do not have Facebook, it is your responsibility to contact Heather to see if we are riding. If not, please contact Heather to make sure we are riding. We also use the remind app which you can be added to if you like.
- ❖ **Cancellations must be made 24 hours in advance** as a matter of courtesy. More than 2 cancellations may result in losing your spot.
- ❖ **Last minute cancellation or missing an appointment without notice will result in your time slot being given to a family on the waiting list.**
- ❖ **If you are running more than 5 minutes late, we will have to leave without you.** We have to leave on time for each ride, or we get behind and the other riders don't get a full session.
- ❖ **If the rider will miss more than one week of riding, their space may be given away.** We have limited spots and a long waiting list. We cannot hold a spot for multiple weeks. We may make exceptions for medical leave.
- ❖ After six months, we discuss if your child is still benefitting from the program. If not, we may ask that you give up your spot to another child, or we can extend for another 6 months. **We can only offer riding for a maximum of one year.**

All notification can be made by calling Heather Parker (530) 410-4422, or on the Facebook page, or via email to heatherparker1111@gmail.com

Facility Rules and Safety:

- ❖ **Please observe the 5 mph speed limit.** Park in designated spots and walk out to the riding area. If you cannot walk out, please speak to Heather about special permission to drive out to the riding area.
- ❖ Please be aware that you are at a horse facility. **Please do not do anything in the parking lot that may spook horses** such as ride a bike, run, drag toys on the ground, etc. There are many

boarders that ride their horses in the arenas on weekends and we want to be respectful to them.

- ❖ For your riders safety, and the safety of others riding, **it is critical that riders do not RUN anywhere on the property.** It can spook horses. If they cannot be calm on the property and listen to instructions, like not running up to or behind horses, they cannot be on the property because of safety.
- ❖ **Please do not pet or feed any horses** other than our therapy horses. This is a boarding facility and the horses are all privately owned.
- ❖ **Please bring only the child that is receiving therapy.** It is not a safe environment for multiple children to play. We do not have the staff to ensure the safety of siblings and friends while therapy is being performed.
- ❖ **If you plan to bring a family member or** friend to visit please make sure they bring a Morning Star Farm release with them. Anyone on the property must have a form on file. You are responsible for your guests.
- ❖ Please always **remain in the area** where therapy is being performed.
- ❖ **Pets are not permitted.** Please leave our furry friends at home! Absolutely no dogs please.
- ❖ **If you bring treats for the horses,** please keep them hidden and let us know. We will let you know when it is a good time to feed a treat. Feeding by hand can be dangerous. We ask that treats are put on the ground or a surface for the horse.

What should my child wear?

- ❖ **Dress in layers.** It can be warm in the sun and chilly in the forest.
- ❖ **Wear sunscreen during the summer!**
- ❖ **Always wear long pants,** either sweats or jeans. Skin can get pinched in a saddle! OUCH!
- ❖ If possible, shoes with a heel are the safest choice when riding. However, running shoes are fine. Absolutely **no open-toed shoes** anywhere on the facility please! If a rider is wearing them, they will not be able to ride.
- ❖ **Other things to avoid:** tight, restrictive clothes, shorts, dangly jewelry, hair accessories that will hurt in a helmet, sharp objects in pockets.

Please sign below acknowledging you have read the above policies:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Participant's Information and Health History-this is to make sure we know everything important to keep your rider safe and to make the best choice of horse and volunteers for your child.

General Information

Participant: _____

DOB: _____ Age: _____ Height: _____ Weight: _____ Gender: M F

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

School: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian: _____

Address (if different from above): _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Health History-This won't apply to everyone. Just write N/A.

Diagnosis or reason for wanting therapy: _____

Date of onset: _____

Medications: _____

Surgeries: _____

Please indicate your child's ability in the following areas (this section may not apply)

Can follow simple commands? _____

Respond to their name? _____

Gives high fives? _____

Know colors? _____

Know letters? _____

Know left from right? _____

Can communicate about needing bathroom? _____

Can sit-up unassisted? _____

Any tendencies towards violence (hitting, kicking, pushing)? _____

Seizures? _____

Communication: Circle one

None yet knows 1-5 words can repeat knows lots of words very verbal signs only

What are your goals or reasons for wanting to participate in therapeutic horseback riding? _____

Is there anything else you think we should know about the rider?
