



"Hey" is for Horses

Offered at Straight on 'til Morning Farm, Little Marsh, PA
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What is "Hey" is for Horses?

"Hey" is for Horses is a 10-week speech-language therapy program that utilizes hippotherapy for 30 minutes of targeted work on communication skills. These are private, individual speech therapy sessions. They are not riding lessons or a horsemanship skills camp.

What is Hippotherapy?

Hippotherapy refers to how occupational, physical, and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) purposefully use the horse's movement in therapy to target a client's specific treatment goals. Much of the research on hippotherapy focuses on the motor and sensory inputs, but our clients benefit from the emotional and social aspects as well!

What are the Benefits of Using Horses in Speech-Language Therapy?

Horses provide sensory and motor stimulation and feedback to their riders. This rhythmic input supports the systems that impact the main areas that SLPs treat.

- **Speech Difficulties:** Equine movement is used to facilitate the 70+ muscles that are required to produce speech sounds accurately and fluently.
- **Language Difficulties:** Equine movement is used to facilitate the neural activity that is responsible for joint attention, engagement, and the speed of linguistic processing in naturally occurring and motivating contexts.
- **Social Communication Difficulties:** Incorporating horses and a farm environment provides natural and exciting opportunities for verbal and nonverbal social communication practice.
- **Other Benefits Include:** Improved postural stability, increased adaptive behaviors, improved motor control, improved balance, and increased confidence and self-esteem.

Who is This Program For?

"Hey" is for Horses targets the communication needs of children with suspected or identified delays in speech and language ages 2 to 21 years.



How do I Enroll my Child?

Contact McKayla or Kerry for an application to the program. Upon review of the application, an initial meeting with the treatment team will be set up to determine if the program can adequately serve your child and complete the enrollment process. The cost for the 10-week program is \$1000.