



Therapeutic Riding

Program Introduction

I, Brenda Malcolm, operate a therapeutic riding program at Oak Hill Farm located in Roanoke, Indiana. It is important to me to provide quality services with credibility to the community that I serve. I am a certified North American Handicap Riding Instructor with a riding center that is now serving in its fourth season. Our program receives national recognition as a North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA Center #73080).

I am a Medical Technologist (MT, AMT) by occupation, employed by Lutheran Hospital. I am an accomplished equestrian and have worked with horses and children for more than 40 years. I have instructed 4-H members in horseback riding for more than 15 years and became involved in teaching riding to handicapped children four years ago.

Our program provides riding instruction for both able-bodied and disabled children and adults. We have serviced clients from Turnstone, individuals from the Roanoke area, 4-H members, and Huntington County school system children through referrals for the past two years. Our program services approximately 15-20 riders depending on the season.

At Oak Hill, we work with our clients to achieve the highest degree of independent riding their (dis)abilities will allow. Our goals include the development of independence, balance, coordination, flexibility, and strength. The disabilities experienced by our present clients include cerebral palsy, autism, phobias, and attention deficit disorder. I develop a lesson plan, and goals are developed to suit each child's individual needs in collaboration with therapists, the child, and the child's parents.

Presently, we are working on adding early literacy skills to our program by posting letters and sight words in the arena to be used as riding cues. Our lesson time may also include grooming and saddling of horses, as well as riding. Educational information on horse anatomy, saddle parts, care of horses, feeding, cleaning, and care of equipment may also be taught, as appropriate, to the individual client.

I believe our clients benefit in the realm of social skills and life skills, including following directions and taking instruction. Students are consistently affirmed for their efforts to learn these skills, as well as horsemanship.

Welcome to our program!

Sincerely,
Brenda

By Brenda Malcolm Stoffel

PATH Certified Instructor

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