

What is Hippotherapy?

Hippotherapy is a physical, occupational and speech therapy treatment strategy that utilizes equine movement. Hippotherapy is utilized as part of an integrated treatment program to achieve functional outcomes.

In hippotherapy, the patient engages in activities on the horse that are enjoyable and challenging. In the controlled therapy environment, the therapist directs the horse's movement and carefully grades sensory input. Specific riding skills are not taught as in adaptive horse-back riding. In a PT, OT or Speech treatment session which incorporates hippotherapy as one of the treatment strategies the patient benefits from a foundation which is established through the movement of the horse to improve neurological function and sensory processing. This foundation can be generalized to a wide range of daily activities.

Therapists in the United States have used the movement of the horse for treatment since the 1970's. Hippotherapy is currently utilized in 24 countries around the world.

**Go to the American
Hippotherapy Association (AHA)
website at**

www.americanhippotherapyassociation.org

As of 1/1/2005, AHA Level I Therapist or Assistant and NARHA Registered Therapist or Assistant eligibility require both courses that are being offered these 4 ½ days. Therapy professionals trying to acquire Level I status may waive taking the Equine Skills Level I course if they have documentation of horse skills such as: Pony Club Levels, NARHA Registered Instructor, USDF Bronze medal. In addition, an applicant may submit a skills list, signed by a horse professional, that shows basic equine skills. This form can be obtained from the AHA Coordinating Faculty and will be reviewed to determine if Level I Equine Skills can be Waived by the AHA Coordinating Faculty.

**Place Host Facility information
or lodging information in this box**

**Place AHA Faculty name
here**

**Place Faculty Bio here
from AHA HTH Packet**



**Place AHA Faculty name
here**

**Place Faculty Bio here
from AHA HTH Packet**

**Name of Hosting
Facility**

**AHA Inc. Approved
Level I
Equine Skills and
Treatment Principles
Course**

Equine Skills (month, date, year)
Treatment Principles (month, date, year)

These courses are mandatory to become
eligible for
NARHA Registered Therapist Status



**OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPY**



SPEECH THERAPY



PHYSICAL THERAPY

Host Facility Information

Equine Skills Course Description and Objectives

This two day, hands-on, course targets therapists and assistants with minimal to no horse experience in non-mounted equine skills. Participants will work with horses in teams of two or three, with close supervision and assistance allowing an opportunity for demonstration, practice and individualized feedback and instruction.

- Correctly interpret the “body language” of the horse. Identify and name key anatomical points of the horse.
- Recognize elements of desirable conformation of the horse.
- Identify, describe the function of, and demonstrate proper use of grooming equipment.
- Identify key parts of the horse's tack.
- Demonstrate safe and proper tacking and un-tacking of a horse.
- Recognize and describe the four natural gaits of the horse.
- Recognize desirable qualities of the horse's movement.
- Recognize unsoundness in a moving horse.
- Recognize the signs of stress/burnout in the horse.
- Demonstrate safe, correct leading techniques with basic school figures.
- Demonstrate kind and humane treatment of the horse at all times

Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ State/ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Height: _____ Weight: _____

(needed for mounted practicums)

If your weight exceeds 180 lbs you will be excused from the mounted practicum

Profession & License # _____

NARHA Instructor _____ Horse handler _____

Administrator _____ Other _____

Course Manuals, lunch and snacks are provided

Fees:

Equine Skills Course Only:

- **\$000.00 Early Registration**
- **\$000.00 Received after (month, date, year)**

Treatment Principles Course:

- **\$000.00 Early Registration**
- **\$000.00 Received after (month, date, year)**

Both Courses:

- **\$000.00 Early Registration**
- **\$000.00 Received after (month, date, year)**

Place Facility Information here

Treatment Principles Course Description and Objectives

This 2 1/2 day course is designed for entry level therapists utilizing hippotherapy as a treatment strategy and those in or working with hippotherapy teams. Hands on practicums are available in this course. It can be attended by graduate physical, occupational, speech therapists. Horse handlers and riding instructors

- Know and understand the definition of Hippotherapy.
- Understand how the horse's movement affects human systems - A System's Approach.
- Describe possible responses of a patient to the movement of the horse's walk.
- Describe the unique contributions of the horse's movement as a treatment strategy and potential benefit for the patient.
- Understand the importance of the hippotherapy horse's suitability and movement.
- Describe the appropriate methods of horse handling during a hippotherapy session.
- Describe the selection and use of hippotherapy equipment for the horse and patient.
- Identify all factors that contribute to safety in the hippotherapy session.
- Identify key considerations for patient selection for hippotherapy including specific contraindications and precautions.
- Describe the key elements of patient evaluation and treatment planning.
- Describe methods of maximizing effects of hippotherapy, including school figures and movement progressions.
- Describe safe methods of transitioning on and off the horse.
- Have a working knowledge of potential emergencies and appropriate procedures.
- Describe the roles of the hippotherapy team members.
- Understand the business aspects related to hippotherapy including documentation, record keeping, reimbursement issues and insurance.
- Demonstrate kind and humane treatment of the horse at all times