



# ***GAIT Therapeutic Riding Center***

## ***Independent Study Task Description/ Occupational Therapy Practicum***

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**Job Summary:** The Occupational Therapy intern's role is to apply his/her knowledge to help individuals improve their ability to carry out their daily tasks, using equine assisted activities and therapies such as Therapeutic Riding and Hippotherapy.

**Location:** GAIT TRC 314 Foster Hill Rd., Milford, PA 18337

**Supervisor(s):** Vera Remes, PATH Intl. Certified Instructor; Martha Dubensky, Executive Director

### **Qualifications:**

- Working knowledge of occupational therapy theories through classroom studies
- Must be able to communicate clearly, honestly, and respectfully with staff, participants, parents, and volunteers
- Willingness to work outdoors
- Must attend required programs and training session
- Ability to give and receive feedback in a positive manner
- Adhere to all of GAIT's policies and procedures
- Be committed to a positive, fun, and team-orientated working environment

**Responsibilities:** Through observation and limited participation in Hippotherapy and Therapeutic Riding classes, interns will learn to:

- Evaluate functional abilities and assess physical/ environmental barriers impeding functionality
- Establish goals which will improve functional abilities within a given timeframe
- Develop weekly, progressive objectives through exercises and activities where horses become the motivation to achieve results
- Evaluate goal achievement
- Become familiar with equipment used for horses, riders, and how participant needs and behaviors influence appropriate horse/tack selection
- Participate in Safety and Orientation Volunteer Training to learn GAIT policies, safety procedures, and participation during Therapeutic Riding classes

### **Requirements:**

- Participation with participants requires obtaining Child Abuse Clearance, PA Criminal History Background Check, and FBI Fingerprint Background Check
- Complete Internship Application and attend a Safety and Orientation training
- Required reading includes articles and magazines related to Equine Therapy available on site
- Develop a game that incorporates an OT objective within the realm of riding

**Days and Hours:** To be determined