



GAIT Therapeutic Riding Center

Independent Study Task Description/ Recreational Therapy Practicum

Job Summary: The Recreational Therapy intern's role is to apply his/her knowledge to provide services to individuals with special needs, 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:

- Assist participants to maintain their physical, mental, and emotional well-being by using a variety of techniques, including arts and crafts, games, physical activity, and equine assisted activities/ therapies
- 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/ mental 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 an activity that incorporates exercises that will help reduce stress, enhance basic motor function and reasoning abilities, improve positive socialization, and/or increase confidence

Days and Hours: To be determined