



Parent-Child Services Group, Inc.

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Frequently Asked Questions about Therapeutic Riding

How does therapeutic riding enhance therapy and what techniques are used?

Children experience sensory stimulation through the feel, smell, and movement of the horse. Organizational skills and independence are encouraged through taking care of the horse's needs during therapy (e.g. grooming, outfitting). Organized movement input is provided while riding the horse; this movement simulates walking for children who are non-ambulatory and can be calming for children with sensory or motor planning disorders. Communication is stimulated through commands given to the horse during riding. Fine motor skills are encouraged when outfitting the horse and when stopping at stations in the arena.

Who works with my child?

A speech-language pathologist may work with your child or may work with two children for that session and switch off periodically to give your child the benefit of speech-language therapy, if needed. Volunteer assistants work as additional "walkers" and part of the child's team.

Where is it?

Therapeutic riding is located at 7313 W. Emory Road (18 minutes from Parent-Child Services Group's Weisgarber location.)

What ages are appropriate?

Children from age 2 and older are appropriate with any diagnosed disability, learning challenge or motor impairment.

What evaluations are needed prior to scheduling?

A child should have a current speech-language evaluation (within 6 months). The evaluation can be from another community agency or from the public schools and must include a current treatment plan.

When is it scheduled?

Children are scheduled individually according to availability.

How many weeks are in a typical program?

Therapeutic riding can continue until goals are met or can be contracted for a specified period of time to stimulate target areas.

How much does it cost?

Therapeutic riding costs \$135 per hour if a child has speech-language goals for therapeutic intervention during the riding session. A typical session is one hour, but can be 30 minutes if needed for a young child.

Does insurance pay for therapeutic riding?

Therapeutic riding is not typically reimbursable thru insurance. If billed as speech-language therapy, insurance coverage will be specific to your insurance plan. Most insurance companies require that therapy be "medically necessary." Call your insurance company and ask if speech-language therapy is covered for your child's diagnosis.

How is therapeutic riding billed?

Therapy provided during therapeutic riding is billed as speech-language therapy according to your child's treatment plan and individual needs. Therapeutic riding has many benefits on its own but when used as a technique for delivery of speech-language therapy, benefits are even greater.

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