

BARN BUDDIES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are some examples of Barn Buddies activities that work on multiple therapy goals?

One activity that is used to address many areas and goals is grooming a horse. This is a special time for each student to give love and attention to a horse and deepen the connection they feel for that exceptional friend. Beyond this obvious emotional benefit, grooming also helps students work on gaining body awareness, practice sequencing and motor planning.

Another example is making grain. While students are having fun making dinner for the horses, they may also be working on improving reading skills, learning fractions, paying attention to detail and the ability to follow a list. After making grain the team meets outside the grain room with all the grain buckets to play "Name that Horse". This game is a Barn Buddies favorite! One person gives a clue about a horse and the students take turns guessing which horse that clue pertains to. This game works on memory, speaking with clarity, feeling comfortable speaking in front of a group... and it is just plain fun! The children feel excitement when they are giving the clue and pride when they answer a question correctly; they jump up from their seat to run and get that horse's bucket if they guess right. Ask any Barn Buddies participant who is the silliest horse in the barn and they will shout out "SPIKE!"

How does Barn Buddies build confidence?

Barn Buddies builds confidence through the accomplishment of daily tasks. Students feel important when they walk through the barn doors knowing that they are assistant barn managers that day, and it is up to us all as a team to care for Lovelane's incredible horses. Taking care of another living, breathing creature and knowing that they are responsible for the well being of an animal that they love so much is a feeling that cannot be duplicated elsewhere. With the staff's encouragement and supportive words, the students are proud of themselves for everything they achieve at Barn Buddies.

How does Barn Buddies help foster friendships between its participants?

Through the powerful shared love for horses, our students find common ground on which to build relationships with their peers. At Barn Buddies children get a chance to work with one another, make friendships, problem solve together, and be a part of a team. While the barn staff and volunteers provide the tools and the ideal environment to foster new bonds, the students themselves do all the work. In a supportive comfortable environment the children can interact with their new friends – both horse and human!

How does Barn Buddies work on communication skills?

Barn Buddies is a class based on many group activities where communication is key. The group needs to constantly talk with one another to make sure all of the tasks are being completed and all of the horses are getting the care they need. For example, before dropping hay the team meets to discuss who will be responsible for feeding which horses. In this group discussion the students are practicing turn taking, attention skills, eye contact, staying on topic, speaking with clarity and compromise. All of these important skills are applicable in their daily lives when communicating with others outside of class.

How much does it cost?

\$600 for 1.5 hour classes **or** \$480 for 1 hour classes for 12 weeks

How do I sign my child up?

Fill out the Barn Buddies waitlist form and send it to Lovelane, attention Cassie. You will be notified when Lovelane has an opening in the schedule.

Email- Cassie@lovelane.org

Fax- 781-259-4877 attn. Cassie

Mail- 40 Baker Bridge Rd Lincoln, MA 01773