



Job Description – Horse Handler

TITLE:	Horse Handler
STATUS:	As Needed/Contract Labor
REPORTS TO:	Equine Program Manager
GENERAL FUNCTION:	Handle horses for therapy sessions and assist equine team with horse and facility care.
REQUIRED EXPERIENCE:	3+ years of experience with horses.
REQUIRED EDUCATION:	High school diploma or general education degree (GED)

PREREQUISITE SKILLS:

- Horse Handlers should have working equine knowledge and should demonstrate comfort and confidence around horses.
- Ability to detect illness/injury in a horse and ability to interpret equine behavior.
- Ability to groom, tack, and lead horses independently.
- Ability to clearly and effectively communicate through both verbal and written methods.
- Ability to problem-solve.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

The following functions describe the essential duties of this role. Other additional related duties may be assigned from time to time.

1. Ground drive or head lead horses for physical and occupational therapy sessions. Ensure safety of client, therapist, and horse during each hippotherapy session. Walk several miles throughout the course of a day on uneven surfaces.
2. Help with horse/barn care, such as feeding, stall cleaning, turnout, cleaning/filling water buckets, laundry, horse healthcare, retrieving hay, etc.
3. Properly groom and tack therapy horses for hippotherapy sessions.
4. Assist in upkeep and maintenance of tack, tack room, stable, and arena.

5. Demonstrate horsemanship skills and equine knowledge. Handlers should be able to interact with horses independently and with confidence.

PHYSICAL/ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Ability to lift up to 50 pounds.
- Ability to walk up to 10 miles per day.
- Ability to work around horses.
- Ability to work in cold or hot weather environments.
- Ability to sustain frequent standing, walking, bending (forward and sideways), grasping, twisting at the waist, squatting, kneeling

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW:

Located in Carmel, Indiana, The Children's TherAplay Foundation is a not-for-profit outpatient pediatric rehabilitation clinic providing physical and occupational therapies for children with special needs. We incorporate the movement of horses (through a treatment strategy known as *hippotherapy*) as a therapeutic tool during physical and occupational treatments.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Interested candidates should send the following information to Equine Program Manager Lauren Copenhaver at lcopenhaver@childrenstheraplay.org. No phone calls please.

- The best way to contact you.
- General availability
- Summary of their equine experience
- A brief statement about why they are interested in the position

LEARN MORE:

Thank you for your interest. Get to know Children's TherAplay and get to know our therapy horses, at www.childrenstheraplay.org.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER:

The Children's TherAplay Foundation, Inc. provides equal employment opportunities (EEO) to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or genetics. In addition to federal law requirements, Children's TherAplay complies with applicable state and local laws governing nondiscrimination in employment in every location in which the company has facilities. This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including recruiting, hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leaves of absence, compensation, and training.

Children's TherAplay expressly prohibits any form of workplace harassment based on race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, age, genetic information, disability, or veteran status. Improper interference with the ability of Children's TherAplay employees to perform their job duties may result in discipline up to and including discharge.