



To learn more about this program, please reach out to our Client Program Coordinator,
info@EquestCenter.org



Mission Statement: We improve quality of life through equine-based therapy to physically, mentally and socially/emotionally challenged individuals. Our unique program integrates academic, social and physical skills using the horse as a catalyst.



**EQUEST CENTER
 FOR THERAPEUTIC RIDING**

3777 Rector NE, Rockford, MI 49341

616-866-3066 • equestcenter.org

FED ID# 38-2938949



Equest is a member of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH) <http://www.pathintl.org>



EQUINE ASSISTED READING & LITERACY PROGRAM



Our Equine Assisted Reading & Literacy Program is an exciting YEAR-ROUND program that aims to reinforce a love of reading, while also increasing reading frequency and improving reading skills.

We offer 1-on-1 and group sessions to teach specific reading skills. Using our therapy horses as a supportive friend, our multi-faceted approach is tailored to the specific needs of each individual or group.

Equest also brings miniature horses to schools, libraries, and other places in the community to help spread the joy of reading!



Goals are thoughtfully developed based on each reader's strengths and needs.

We encounter an incredible variation in physical, cognitive and emotional abilities in the clients we see. Because of this, we work with the teachers and parents to identify appropriate lessons for the students or follow a progression of curriculum at Equest to enhance skills taught at home and in the classroom environment. The ultimate goals are to increase the love of reading, teach reading skills including anything from letter recognition, to



phonetics, to sight words, to comprehension, increased fluency, critical thinking skills, increased language and more. We identify learning outcomes, materials needed and strategies to individualize for various learners. The horse interaction, farm environment and materials provide a sensory rich kinesthetic learning opportunity for the participant which studies have shown result in greater retention of skills.

The personal motivation and enthusiasm the program provides for the kids is out of this world.

Equest Center has five state certified teachers on staff including elementary, secondary, special education and



a teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing along with our PATH certified instructors that lead the program and bring it to life.

We have taken our miniature horses to libraries, schools, senior living homes, and to a variety of other places throughout the community. Our BIG horses love reading too, but the minis tend to fit better when traveling into the classrooms and libraries!