

Summer Program Pairs Horses with Kids for Social Skills

Guided activities will integrate kids with ponies and peers to teach social skills this summer at Hudson Valley HorsePlay, Kerhonkson.

Eye contact, greetings, making requests, expressing feelings, observing body language, turn-taking in conversation and teamwork are themes that will be addressed.

GROUPS MEET WEDNESDAYS:

JULY 26, AUGUST 9 and AUGUST 30

Ages 8 - 11, 5 - 6 PM / Ages 12 - 15, 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Fee: \$20 per 60 minute class. \$50 for all 3.



A student interacts with Diggity, one of the the minis that help children learn to better interact with others by experiencing the horses' reactions to their behavior. The program is offered at Hudson Valley HorsePlay,

Call HV HorsePlay (845) 616 - 3608 or email Cori.Nichols@aol.com for information.

SUMMER MELT “Often times kids regress over summer vacation - both socially and academically. Re-entry in September can be an uneasy and lengthy transition.” Eagala certified program director Cori Nichols points out “Here the kids are having a good time while learning how to engage with the animals - and each other. They’ll head into the new school year with greater confidence and a more positive sense of self. They need that to succeed academically.”

WHY HORSES? With this type of work, the horses are allowed to be as natural as possible,” Nichols says. “The kids will see that their behavior has consequences.” For instance, if a child runs up to a horse instead of approaching calmly, the horse naturally moves away. “They all want to be around the animals so they start realizing how they need to act to make that happen,” says Nichols. Learning to pick up on non-verbal signals is a skill that comes naturally to some people, but may be a challenge for others.

Other skills addressed include listening and articulating, building trust and problem-solving. No riding is involved. No horse experience is necessary.

OPEN BARN, SUNDAY, JULY 23 10 - 11 AM. Text or call (845) 616 - 3608 to RSVP.

Contact: email HudsonValleyHorsePlay or call (845) 616 - 3608.

HudsonValleyHorsePlay.com

Farm visits by appointment.