



# Arabian Horse Reading Literacy Project

INNOVATIVE EQUINE-ASSISTED LEARNING





# About Us

**THE ARABIAN HORSE READING LITERACY PROJECT** is an innovative, experiential learning program—Equine Assisted Learning. This program is committed to motivating children to want to read, enhancing their literacy skills and developing their confidence in reading.

*It is an amazing adventure for the children to enjoy the opportunity to read to the horses and experience the exhilaration and joy of spending time with these amazing non-judgmental teachers. "It is important to teach children to read, but we haven't achieved anything if children know how to read ... but don't!"*

**To register for a session or for more information about "The Kids are Reading to the Horses"**

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**The Purpose to motivate children to discover the joys of reading and learning through the magic of contact with live horses.**

**The Goal to spark the imagination of children so they will want to read and enjoy their own sense of creativity as they escape into a world of adventure.**

**DR. BRENDA E. ABBEY - I earned a Doctorate in Applied Research/ Cognitive Psychology and am an educator who is passionate about understanding and promoting Intelligent Behaviours. I am a continuous life long learner and enjoy researching and writing about emotional and social intelligence.**

**HOW CAN EQUINE-ASSISTED THERAPY RE-PATTERN THE LIMBIC SYSTEM?** I have written a research article which supports the benefits of Equine-Assisted experiential learning sessions for children.

*Recently, I had the unique opportunity to visit the Greater Edmonton area and participate as a guest in The Arabian Horse Reading Literacy Project. I was able to see first hand the special bonding moments and the real interactions that were taking place. The experience was magical as I participated in the learning activities and interacted with the elementary students, the horses and the DONKEY who was a star!!*

*Check out my full article and two other links to articles within their website that I have written called Equine-Assisted Learning-Healing with Horses as well as Praise versus Encouragement.*



## How the literacy program works

### First Connection (45 minutes to 1 hour)

A live Arabian horse visits the school.

- Students touch the live horse and are immediately handed their very own book, to keep.

Time for reading and learning in the classroom.

The teacher has the opportunity to design and implement a cross-curricular study that uses the initial horse visit as a catalyst for learning.

- Students are challenged to practice reading to the large colour poster in preparation for a visit to the farm. (4 ft high posters are supplied to each participating class).
- Teachers are supplied with a Teacher

Instruction Manual, loaded with ideas and curriculum links to language arts, science, social studies, math and art.

### Second Connection (2 hours)

Students visit the farm.

- In small groups the students participate in organized activity centres.

• At the conclusion of each activity, the students read to the horse, one at a time ... It is pure magic! ... the horses seem to be listening attentively to every word.

- The day ends with all the students able to observe a communication demonstration with Trifon, our Arabian stallion.
- After a final goodbye, the students are back on the bus. ■