

# PROGRAMS



Horse Powered Reading® is a research-based curriculum developed by Dr. Michele Pickel in 2012. Her unique program focuses on the individual's learning process and builds upon natural curiosity and determination. During sessions, students make discoveries and experiment with knowledge firsthand.

Horse Powered Reading® integrates social-emotional learning with academics. This allows students to see and experience reading with their entire mind, body and emotions by creating metaphors for the skills involved in reading. Students interact with horses from the ground, while using toys and props to identify obstacles and learn five critical reading skills – phonemic awareness, decoding, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension.

Due to their evolutionary prey-animal status, horses have evolved to be extremely sensitive to their environment. They often react to human body language and cues, giving insight as to what a student may be experiencing emotionally if they themselves are not able to articulate their feelings in the moment.

During a session, the horse becomes the “book” that students need to connect with. Without finding and making a connection with the text, it is easy for kids to lose interest in reading altogether. The horse essentially becomes a metaphor for that connection to take place. Through this process, the horse creates an opportunity for immediate feedback and experiential learning to take place.

Horse Powered Reading® can break through literacy roadblocks, giving students a chance to learn or reinforce reading and other academic skills. The learned take-away can be used in and out of school, increase confidence and foster a joy of reading and learning.

\*Please note that your child does not have to struggle with reading to participate. We can work to enhance their current skills to make them even stronger!

Group size: 3-6 people. Recommended for ages 5 to adult.  
Lessons tailored to individualized needs.  
No horse experience required. Ground activities only. No riding.



**Most don't learn well in the classroom. They need to get up and move, use their whole body and see things in a different way. That's where horses come in - they can shift your perspective.**

For more information about Horse Powered Reading®, visit [www.horsepoweredreading.com](http://www.horsepoweredreading.com).