



Equine Assisted Learning FAQs

EQUINE-ASSISTED LEARNING (EAL) as defined by PATH Intl. is the facilitation of experiential learning incorporating equines to promote the development of life skills for educational, professional or personal goals.

Specially trained and/or certified professionals at Carlisle Academy offer nontherapy equine-assisted learning in personal development and growth.

Equine Assisted Learning is:

- Education-based with learning objectives
- A multi-sensory experiential learning approach where feedback from the horse provides the learning
- Interactions with the horse on the ground

Equine Assisted Learning is not:

- Therapy-based (psychotherapy or any counseling modality)
- Riding horses

How does it work?

Qualified professionals possess appropriate training, experience, and skills to facilitate EAL activities that provide an environment integrating equine-human interaction, supported by a planned learning experience, to meet identified goals for the participant. EAL participants are exposed to activities that can promote the discovery of critical life skills such as healthy decision making and problem solving, creative and critical thinking, self-awareness and empathy, communication and interpersonal skills, and coping with emotions and stress. (PATH Intl.)

Who Would Benefit from Equine Assisted Learning?

Anyone interested in enhancing life skills and experiencing personal growth through observing and interacting with the horse.

Eligibility Requirements

Participants in Equine Assisted Learning must:

- Be at least 12 years of age
- Be able to navigate uneven terrain
- Be able to tolerate the sounds and smells of the farm environment
- Be able to manage any allergies to horse hair, hay, dust, pollen, insect bites

Equine-Assisted Services RESTRICTIONS & ATTIRE

- All participants should wear long pants, closed toed shoes preferably with coverage at the ankles for safety around livestock.
- There are no weight restrictions for unmounted programs.
- Helmets are not required for unmounted programs.

Enrollment Paperwork Requirements

- Participant or parent/guardian must complete enrollment forms (1) Enrollment & Liability Release; (2) Medical Form; and (3) EAL Screening & Health History, prior to their first session.

Participant Dismissal & Discharge Policy

It is at the discretion of Carlisle Academy's Head of School to accept or remove a participant from the program. Possible grounds for dismissal or discharge may include, but are not limited to:

- Conduct endangering another student, staff, horse, or themselves.
- Consistent failure to follow safety procedures with respect to the horses and facility.
- A change in medical condition should it be determined that it is no longer safe or beneficial for a participant to continue.
- Continued failure to show up for scheduled time or excessive lateness.
- A participant may be discharged from a program or service if it has been determined that the participant has met stated goals.