



**Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center
Dunmire Stables**

Job Description

Hippotherapy - Physical Therapist or Physical Therapy Assistant, Pediatrics

Status: Non-Exempt

Schedule: Part Time or Full Time, Operating hours are M-Sat 8am-7pm

Compensation: Paid per hour or per client- at assigned rate

Reports to: Therapy Director

Summary:

The Therapist is responsible for direct treatment of patients (primarily pediatric but also adult), with a wide range of diagnoses. This person will be responsible for the evaluation of the patient and the implementation of the therapy treatment plan utilizing equine movement as a treatment tool. The therapist will also be responsible for appropriate communication (verbal & written) with family members, volunteers, and staff members. The therapist will operate under minimal supervision with considerable latitude for independent judgment and actions in assigned therapy treatment and patient matters. May make suggestions and recommendations to other staff and clients within the scope of this position.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

- Evaluate potential therapy patients as needed.
- Determine treatment plan including long and short-term goals for all patients on caseload.
- Determine appropriate use of equine movement with-in the treatment plan.
- Lead support team of horse handlers and volunteers to implement your therapy treatment.
- Work in collaboration with family.
- Use appropriate communication (verbal & written) with family members and other service providers.
- Maintain up to date charts for all patients.
- Implement treatment plan.
- Re-evaluate patients every 12 months, or on an as-needed basis to review treatment plan and goals.
- Write progress reports for patients as required by physicians, insurance companies, parents, etc.
- Collaborate with Adaptive Riding Instructors, or other recreational staff to establish a transition plan for any patients participating in these recreational programs upon discharge from the therapy program.

- Respond to problems, complaints, and suggestions of volunteers and/or horse handlers.
- Communicate scheduling needs to the Therapy Services Director (horses, horse handlers, equipment and/or patient, volunteers).
- Fulfill the role of clinical instructor when students attend for clinical affiliation, if appropriate.
- Ensure that Little Bit is provided with documentation to support current legal status as a practicing Therapist in this state.
- Assist with Little Bit events and activities if required.
- Other duties as assigned.

Basic Qualifications:

- Education/License: Current license in Washington State as a Physical Therapist or Physical Therapy Assistant
- Horsemanship experience and comfortable integrating equine therapy techniques.
- Completed or planned continuing education of two approved American Hippotherapy Association courses.
- Knowledgeable of the standards and requirements of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship, Int. accredited program.
- Competency in the provisions of therapist's discipline's services in accordance with specific standards of practice.
- A thorough understanding of the principles and practice of hippotherapy.
- Advocacy for hippotherapy and Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center.
- Must foster teamwork with professional behavior at all times.
- U. S. Citizen or valid resident/ work permit.
- Must pass a Washington State Criminal History background check.
- Must be available and able to work outside in all weather conditions, including heat and winter conditions.

Working Conditions/Physical Effort

- Must be able to lift and carry at least 50 lbs.
- Assist patients weighing up to 190 lbs. with mounts and dismounts.
- Walk 5-8 miles per day over uneven surfaces.
- Work with arms at shoulder level for up to 30 min 6x/day
- Kneel on floor up to 30 min 6x/day.
- Must be physically fit with quick reflexes and high level of alertness at all times during treatments involving horses.
- Work involves both an office environment and an outdoor environment.
- Work includes stooping, kneeling, bending, twisting, lifting hands and equipment over head, reaching, pushing and pulling.

Apply - Send resume and cover letter to jobs@littlebit.org. Please describe your experience working with horses and treating pediatric and/or disabled clients.